



Vol. 41. No 1

The Maryland Yellowthroat

February 2021



Photo by David Fleischmann

A Painted Bunting seen by hundreds of people at Great Falls Park was one of the birding highlights in 2020. We recall some of the others inside this issue.

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society

Editor: Dave Wood

Yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Calendar Editor: Marilyn Veek

calendar@mdbirds.org

Mailing List: Maryanne Dolan

maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Susan Pardew

(Upcoming issues)

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler

jswheeler3@verizon.net

Webmaster: Tom Strikwerda

webmaster@mdbirds.org

Editor's Note

"When you have been long confined, what exhilaration there is in being again out of doors in the sweep of a boundless natural landscape, in a vastly expanded world open to the winds and of roofless blue above the high and incorporeal clouds. And what comfort and peace there is in the sense one has of being restored to a place in the supreme composition, reintegrated with the elements, with hills and woodlands!"

From Charlton Ogburn, "The Adventure of Birds". ; 1975 Pp. 24

One wonders what heights of reverie Charlton Ogburn would have reached had he been writing during these COVID days. Back then, he at least could have visited a museum or had a nice meal at a restaurant without worrying it would be his last. He wouldn't have had to contemplate binge-watching Netflix or "Dancing with the Stars" to avoid going stir-crazy.

I must admit, I haven't thought much about "high and incorporeal clouds" when wandering Rock Creek Park, but Charlton Ogburn has put his finger on how a lot of us feel heading outside and finding peace in nature, thereby escaping cable news and the occasional attack on the U.S. Capitol. We have to admit: as individuals who can gain so much enjoyment, inspiration, and relief from the simple joys of nature, we are undeniably fortunate.

Of course, we are also fortunate to be part of MOS, with so many fellow energetic, enthusiastic, curious, and knowledgeable members. Here, in particular, I want to extend deepest gratitude to Orietta Estrada, editor emerita, for having invested so much creative energy and passion in making the Yellowthroat so informative, current, and interesting.

The authors in this issue, through their generous contributions, are keeping that tradition alive.

- Former MOS president Barbara Johnson reviews Drew Lanham's latest book "The Home Place", after scoring an interview with him that you can read in the Fall 2020 Yellowthroat.
- Phil Davis updates us on the most recent decisions of the Maryland/DC Records Committee
- Gabriel Foley gives us an update on the Maryland Breeding Bird Census. Some unexpected findings.
- David Fleischmann gives us an enthusiastic summary of the Maryland birding highlights in 2020, while Sue Muller describes an unusual encounter with a rare spider. More unexpected findings
- George Radcliffe contributes an account of the activities of his youth group.
- Dr Marcia Watson provides an amazingly thorough summary of a serious upcoming threat to some of our most visited local natural areas and informs us what we can do to confront it
- Jean Wheeler, once again, has put together a compilation of MOS chapter activities
- And, sadly, MOS bids farewell to treasured and stalwart members Les Roslund and Linda Kay Griggs Baker

We have been in pandemic lockdown for close to a year now, but that hasn't stopped MOS members from finding physical, spiritual, and emotional nourishment in Maryland's outdoors. Here's to more adventures and, above all, good health in 2021.

President's Corner

They say life comes at you fast, and six months into my first year as President of MOS all I can say is they are right. Consider some of what has happened in the past tumultuous year in America: COVID-19, an awakening to America's deep-rooted problem of system racism, a watershed election removing the worst president for wildlife and conservation in history. Each of these has had profound effects on MOS; it's been quite a start to my term! My original goals for my two years as president – improved communication, management of our digital presence, and refreshing our sometimes-antiquated practices – have turned out to be even more pressing in light of these events. But I have been pleasantly surprised by the continued vibrancy of MOS and the willingness of its members to adapt to new circumstances!

Let me start out by saying a few words about myself first, before diving into how MOS is confronting these pressing issues. I am a long-time birder, something on the order of 55 years, but I'm the kind of birder who likes just being out in the field, getting away from it all. My life list lies somewhere uncertainly between 300 and 500 species; in my early years, recording sightings wasn't something that I could do as easily as I can now, with the advent of smartphones and eBird. Lifers are exciting, but they don't drive my birding these days. I'm often content to just sit and watch the passing show. It never gets old!

The pandemic which was unleashed on America a year ago has presented considerable challenges to the usual manner in which MOS has conducted its business in the past. We had to cancel last year's convention, field trips have been largely halted, and local chapter meetings have been moved to a virtual on-line format. But unsurprisingly, MOS has soldiered on. The pandemic has closed some doors, temporarily one hopes, but has also forced us to be creative and to explore new ways of going about our business. Key to this has been improved communications.

Communications is something that MOS has not been very good at, whether it be communications between MOS Central and MOS members, between MOS Central and the local chapters, between the various local chapters, or between MOS and the wider world. But we've been making efforts to improve the lines of communication over the past year. To begin with, as part of the Breeding Bird Atlas effort, we obtained a free non-profit version of Google Workspace, a set of digital tools for corporations. These tools allow us to use our own email domain, mdbirds.org, for email and to set up virtual meetings. More importantly, we have set up email groups for the MOS Executive Board, for the Executive Council, and for the local chapter presidents, that allow an easy way to discuss topics of interest among the members of the group. These email groups are fostering discussions that haven't been easy to generate in the past, and the discussions have given rise to surprising interactions. The chapter presidents have been sharing information about their chapter's virtual meetings, and some of the virtual chapter meetings have been attended by members of as many as eight local chapters! Additionally, last year Robin Todd started, and I've continued, sending a monthly letter that goes out to the chapter presidents, summarizing the happenings in MOS. These letters have also been useful in recruiting volunteers for open positions; both the

new Sanctuary Chair (Wayne Gordon) and the new Yellowthroat editor (Dave Wood) heard about the open positions because their local chapter passed along the information from the monthly letter.

What is more problematic is getting messages directly to the members of MOS. The Yellowthroat is one medium, but it is published only four times a year, making timely messaging difficult. MOS does have a method of sending out emails to the general membership (via MailChimp), but too many members have opted out of receiving these emails, so our reach is to no more than 50% of the MOS membership. This is particularly vexing in these times of COVID-19, when we have to hold the annual election of our officers remotely, or when we want to make an announcement of general interest, such as an announcement about the upcoming MOS Convention in June. (It's going to be a virtual convention; go to mosconvention.org for more information.) And while the digital world that is opening up offers many new ways to communicate, not everyone in MOS can reach the internet, nor is everyone comfortable with the new digital technologies. Suggestions for how to improve this aspect of communications, between MOS Central and the MOS membership, are always welcome.

MOS also must improve its communications with the wider world. One of the things that has happened as a result of the COVID has been an explosion in the interest in birding by those who are stuck at home. We at MOS need to find ways to reach out to these people who are newly interested in birding, as well as experienced birders who don't belong to MOS. We do have an MOS Facebook page, which has over 3600 followers – more than twice as many followers as there are MOS members! The MD Birding Facebook group has over 13,000 followers! If we can do a better job of publicizing MOS, we can increase our membership, and increasing our membership pays dividends in many ways, from increasing the programs we can put on, to helping to increase the diversity of the membership.

The eagle-eyed reader will note that we are addressing our communications issues primarily through digital means: email, Facebook, Google Workspace. The march of MOS into the new digital world has been slow – we're certainly not first adopters – but COVID has forced us to pick up the pace. For the most part, there simply haven't been any alternative solutions to the communications hurdles. One of my concerns is that as our digital operations increase, our ability to manage them isn't keeping pace. MOS is a volunteer organization, and it is only when someone volunteers to create and operate one of these new digital channels, such as Facebook or YouTube, do we jump in. As a result, the growth of our presence in the digital domain has been helter-skelter, without any coherent planning. We need to develop a comprehensive strategy for dealing with these digital efforts, to make sure that we are operating them efficiently and safely, and to maximize our leverage in using the new social media. Again, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to utilize new digital technologies in order to hold virtual meetings. I've been impressed with the speed with which the local chapters have adopted virtual meetings, but I also get the feeling that we could and should be doing more to make these meetings known more widely not just to MOS members, but to the wider world. It is an opportunity to expand our reach and

grow.

The COVID pandemic has forced us to invent new ways of doing old things, or to start doing new things in place of the old. In fact, the renewal and reinvention are something that we should be doing on a regular basis. Even before the pandemic, MOS often seemed to be doing things in a certain way because we have always done those things that way. While the phrase "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is a good rule of thumb, we need to review our efforts every so often to ensure that what we are doing isn't in fact broken. I'd like to make sure that we review our activities periodically to ensure that they are consistent with the MOS Mission Statement (which has just been updated; go to mdbirds.org/join/about-mos to see the latest version), and are effective at attaining the goals of the activity. Refreshing our activities, whether by killing ineffective programs or starting new ones, is a simple matter of evolution; as the environment changes, we must adapt to the new environment in order to prosper. And make no mistake about it: our environment has changed considerably over the past year!

As I said previously, communications are a key to MOS' success. One channel of communication that wasn't mentioned above is communication from you to me. I'd like to hear more from you, the MOS membership, about the problems that confront us. How can we keep you better informed about MOS and its activities? How can we tell the world about MOS? How can we increase our membership? What new initiatives would you like to see MOS undertake? Please send me emails with your thoughts! I can be reached at president@md-birds.org or john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org (note the fancy mdbirds.org email addresses!)

I am so looking forward to this new year, for many reasons, but from a birding perspective, what has me most excited is the emergence of the 17-year cicada brood in central Maryland! I am going to be Atlasing at every opportunity!!

John McKitterick
MOS President

A Special Spider

It was July 4th, and a friend and I decided to work on the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA). We didn't want to be on the trails with hundreds of other people (Covid), so we decided to put on chest waders and walk through the Middle Patuxent River. Many good breeding records were documented. When I returned to my vehicle at a bridge crossing on Murray Hill Drive, another vehicle pulled up on the other side of the road. A family of four stepped out including two small boys. They were curious about the bio geek garb I had on (waders, binoculars, snake hook, camera, hat – you get the picture). So, I was telling them about the BBA when the youngest boy got all excited, "Daddy, Daddy, look at that spider, it has red legs! I want to catch it." The boy had a fish aquarium net and started to slap it on the ground trying to catch it, of course he didn't intend to hurt it. I of course was alarmed for the safety of the spider and asked the boy if I could take a photo of his spider. So, I photographed the spider and distracted the boy showing him iNaturalist and identifying the spider as the Red-legged Purseweb Spider. I was hoping while I distracted the boy the spider would get away but instead it started to cross the road. I told the boy I would help it across the road and it safely reached the other side. It was not until I got home and looked on the Maryland Biodiversity Project website that I realized it was a Maryland endangered species. Imagine my shock!

Sue Muller

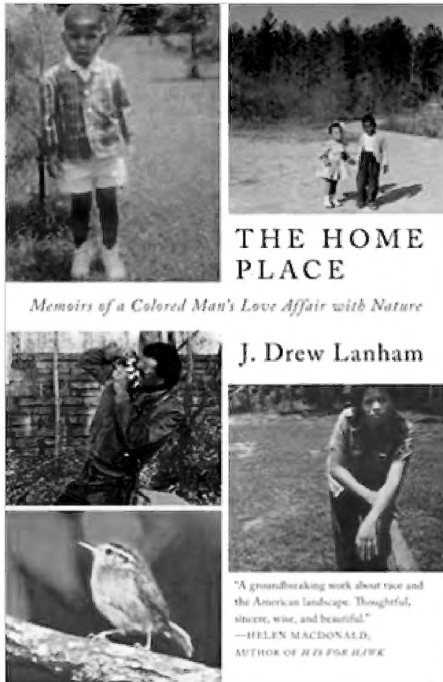
Co-coordinator BBA3, Howard
County



The Home Place; Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature

J. Drew Lanham; Milkweed Editions, 2016

From the introduction to *The Home Place*:



"I am a man in love with Nature. I am an eco-addict, consuming everything that the outdoors offers in its all-you-can-eat buffet. I am a wildling, born of forests and fields and more comfortable on unpaved back roads and winding woodland paths than any place where concrete, asphalt, and crowds prevail. In my obsession I 'celebrate myself, and sing myself,' living Walt Whitman's exaltations, rolling and reveling in all that nature lays before me."

By turns wistful, hilarious, mournful, biting, enlightening, reverent, and challenging, Dr. J. Drew Lanham's lyrical book, *The Home Place; Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature* merits shelf space with the writings of Mary Oliver, Helen McDonald, and Craig Childs. *The Home Place* spans Lanham's childhood in the South of the 1960's to his current life as a self-professed "rare bird", a Black naturalist and ecologist. A Clemson University Master Teacher and Alumni Distinguished Professor in wildlife ecology, he was awarded the National Audubon Society's Dan W. Lufkin Prize for Environmental Leadership. Lanham is renowned for his research in ornithology, wildlife management and land conservation. He is a published poet and a dynamic public speaker. Long outspoken on the challenges of "Birding while Black," Lanham has been stormed with interview requests since Christian Cooper's famous encounter with a racist in Central Park.

Lanham's boyhood "Home Place" was a 200-acre farm near the western border of South Carolina. Edgefield County, partly defined by the Savannah River, has "an incredible natural wealth of mountain, piedmont, and coastal plain". His family name was scattered among the local Black descendants of his enslaved ancestors and the white progeny of the plantation owners who held them.

Lanham's parents were progressive school teachers and farmers who demanded hard work at both home and school. His grandmother, with whom young Drew primarily lived in a cabin on the farm, treated illness with Nature's pharmacy and imbued in him a fear of God and ghosts. Beyond the cabin were woods, fields and water, a universe for a budding

naturalist.

Lanham effortlessly inhabits a child's perspective, his life sculpted by his extraordinary family members, and adventures from the farm, wilderness, school and church. The beginnings of his life-long fascination with birds in the chapters "Little Brown Icarus" and "Whose Eye is on the Sparrow" are humorous and poignant. His brother's copy of *A Sand County Almanac* sparked his love for writing. While his father's early death ultimately forced the family from the Home Place, Lanham's connection to wilderness held fast through adolescence.

Lanham entered Clemson University on a full scholarship. Midway through a tedious junior year, he dumped engineering and plunged into biological sciences, absent the scholarship but happy. His first foray into fieldwork was under the avian ecologist Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty, whose groundbreaking work on eastern bluebirds upended beliefs about bird sexual behavior. The ins and outs of Lanham's growth as a family man and scientist, leading to his current position on Clemson's faculty, are recounted with entertaining candor.

Notable chapters include "Birding While Black", which will be for many white readers a chilling reality-check. "Jawbone" is an evocative tribute to the deer Lanham learned to hunt, as an adult. In "New Religion", he attributes a shift in his thinking to a lecture by E.O. Wilson, who inspired in him a more spiritual embrace of nature. Now, Lanham writes, his teaching tends toward "taking the hard data and wrapping it in genuine caring."

The web of life and our species' debt to land, water and wildlife are themes throughout *The Home Place*. Lanham closes the memoir with an examination of his family history (much of it lost through slavery's forces of eradication) and the exploration, by virtue of DNA analysis, of his ancestral place in the human family.

This is a book to be savored and re-read. Lanham's fluid, painterly prose is like a ramble with an enthusiastic biophile. The book's retro-sounding subtitle bears explanation; "Colored Man" refers not just to the author's skin tone. Also, there is "the red of miry clay...the brown of spring floods.... the gold of ripening tobacco...the endless rows of cotton's cloudy white. My plumage is a kaleidoscopic rainbow of an eternal hope and the deepest blue of despair and darkness. All of these hues are me; I am, in the deepest sense, colored."

You can find more of Dr. Lanham's experiences and perspectives at <https://orionmagazine.org/article/forever-gone/>

These videos will also be illuminating:

His famous Birding while Black video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaPWAE34GJU&t=37s>

A diverse group on an Assateague field trip: ..

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eomGj5BkYo>

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of January 29, 2021

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 183 through 186. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. New "state" species (marked with asterisks) include

Black-chinned Hummingbird and Hermit Warbler for MD. These additions bring the total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD to 455. The DC species list total remains at 342.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL:

<https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/>

MD Records Accepted:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2020-010]
Camp Whippoorwill, Pasadena, Anne Arundel County.
12-Aug-2019. One bird.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2019-070]
Still Pond, Kent County.
16-Aug-2019 through 21-Aug-2019. One bird.

Common Eider, *Somateria mollissima* [MD/2019-169]
Riverwood Way, Riviera Beach, Anne Arundel County.
05-Feb-2019. One bird.

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2019-099]
Hart-Miller Island, Millers Island, Baltimore County.
25-Nov-2019. One bird.

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2020-012]
Uniontown, Carroll County.
15-Mar-2020. One bird.

***Black-chinned Hummingbird**, *Archilochus alexandri* [MD/2020-001]
Compton, Saint Mary's County.
18-Jan-2020 through 22-Feb-2020. One second-year male.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2018-016]
Arnold, Anne Arundel County.
02-May-2018. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2018-043]
Wheaton, Montgomery County.
01-Jul-2018. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2019-073]
Baltimore City, Baltimore County.
10-Sep-2019. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2020-038]
Lake Kittamaquindi, Columbia, Howard County.
14-Apr-2020. One bird.

Clapper Rail, *Rallus crepitans* [MD/2020-036]
Patterson Park, Baltimore City, Baltimore County.
14-Apr-2020 through 15-Apr-2020. One bird.

Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis* [MD/2003-003]
Poolesville, Montgomery County.
09-May-1994 through 12-May-1994. One bird vocalizing.

Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis* [MD/2013-025]
University of Maryland Central Farm, Ellicott City, Howard County.
18-May-2013. One bird.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Hydrobates castro* [MD/2014-057]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
23-Aug-2014. Up to twenty-two birds.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Hydrobates castro* [MD/2019-069]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
12-Aug-2019. Fifty birds - in MD waters from 05:20 am until 09:00 am.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2014-074]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
07-Sep-1975. One bird.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2012-208]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
25-Aug-2012. Approximately five birds, light- to intermediate-faced.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2018-019]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
30-Jul-2013. One bird, dark-faced.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2018-020]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
30-Jul-2013. One bird, light-faced.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2017-043]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
29-Sep-2019. Two birds.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2013-052]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
31-Jul-2013. One bird, white-faced.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2013-040]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
31-Jul-2013. One light-faced bird.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2013-045]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
31-Jul-2013. Four dark-faced birds.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2013-044]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
31-Jul-2013. Five birds, white-faced.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2013-062]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
17-Aug-2013. One bird, white-faced.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2019-082]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2019-081] 29-Sep-2019. Eleven birds.
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2019-085]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2020-063]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
26-Sep-2020. One intermediate to dark-faced bird.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2020-064]
Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.
27-Sep-2020. One intermediate to dark-faced bird.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2019-067]
Chesapeake Bay, Rock Hall, Kent County.
28-Jul-2019 through 14-Sep-2019. Up to six birds.

Reddish Egret, *Egretta rufescens* [MD/2020-034]
Deal Island WMA, Monie, Somerset County.
17-May-2020. One immature, white morph.

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/2020-004]
Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

17-Oct-2019. One juvenile.

Burrowing Owl, *Athene cunicularia* [MD/2020-018]
Scotland, Saint Mary's County.

07-Apr-2020. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus*

cinerascens [MD/2019-098]

Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County.

25-Nov-2019. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus*

cinerascens [MD/2020-003]

Greenbury Point, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County.

30-Jan-2020 through 21-Feb-2020. One adult.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2020-031]
Severn-Danza Park, Severn, Anne Arundel County.

11-May-2020 through 13-May-2020. One female.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2020-040]
Rose Farm, St. Leonard, Calvert County.

11-Jun-2020. One SY bird.

Hammond's Dusky Flycatcher, *Empidonax*

hammondii/oberholseri [MD/2019-091]

Rickman/Woodstock Equestrian Park, Beallsville, Montgomery County.

06-Oct-2019. One bird.

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus* [MD/2020-013]

Easton Wastewater Treatment Facility, Easton, Talbot County.

02-Mar-2020 through 11-Mar-2020. One immature female.

Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii* [MD/2020-030]

Love Point, Stevensville, Queen Anne's County.

29-Apr-2020. One bird.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/1997-706]

Newburg, Charles County.

16-Dec-1990. One bird.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/2007-029]

Lloyd Bowen Road, Broomes Island, Calvert County.

12-Feb-2000 through 26-Feb-2000. One bird.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/2020-014]

Eastern Neck NWR, Overton, Kent County.

29-Dec-2001. Two birds.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/2005-035]

Eastern Neck NWR, Overton, Kent County.

17-Apr-2005 through 18-Sep-2005. Up to five birds; three adults and two juveniles.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/2006-034]

Eastern Neck NWR, Overton, Kent County.

05-Feb-2006 through 22-Oct-2006. Up to seven birds.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/2006-037]

Fort Smallwood Park, Pasadena, Anne Arundel County.

27-Apr-2006. One bird.

Golden-crowned Sparrow, *Zonotrichia*

atricapilla [MD/2019-087]

Chester River Field Research Center, Kingsville, Queen Anne's County.

06-Oct-2019 through 28-Apr-2020. One HY bird, initially in winter plumage, later into adult plumage.

LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2019-093]

Wheaton-Glenmont, Silver Spring, Montgomery County.

12-Oct-2019. One bird.

LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2019-096]

Conquest Preserve, Centreville, Queen Anne's County.

21-Nov-2019 through 23-Nov-2019. One bird.

LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2019-128]

Hart-Miller Island, Millers Island, Baltimore County.

04-Dec-2019. One adult.

***Hermit Warbler**, *Setophaga occidentalis* [MD/2019-090]

Herrington Manor State Park, Oakland, Garrett County.

14-Oct-2019. One immature female.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [MD/2019-129]

Swan Creek/Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility, Curtis Creek, Anne Arundel County.

04-Dec-2019. One bird.

Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bocephala islandica* [MD/2019-168]

Pirates Cove, Oxford, Talbot County.

21-Dec-2019. One adult male.

Wilson's Plover, *Charadrius wilsonia* [MD/2019-092]

Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County.

26-Sep-2019. One bird.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Hydrobates*

castro [MD/2018-035]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

13-Aug-2005. One bird.

Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2013-026]

Chesapeake Bay, Dares Beach, Calvert County.

19-Sep-2003. One bird.

Reddish Egret, *Egretta rufescens* [MD/2019-075]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

21-Sep-2019. One bird.

Cassin's Vireo, *Vireo cassinii* [MD/2019-041]

Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Prince George's County.

21-Sep-2018. One HY bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2019-104]

Jennings Randolph Lake, Bloomington, Garrett County.

23-Jun-2018 through 26-Jun-2018. One bird.

Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis* [MD/2019-074]

Bond's Landing, Little Orleans, Allegany County.

15-Sep-2019. Up to two birds.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla* [MD/2015-089]

Lake Elkhorn, Columbia, Howard County.

09-Nov-2015. One bird.

Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2020-009]

Muddy Branch Trail, North Potomac, Montgomery County.

11-Feb-2020. One bird.

2020: A YEAR FOR THE BIRDS!!

By: David Fleischmann

Unlike for birds, for most people, 2020 didn't feel like a good year. Getting outdoors and becoming reacquainted with nature and all its peaceful bliss has allowed many people to help get through this difficult time. For me, it gives me a chance to remember the way it was and look forward to the way it will be, soon again. A place where the only social distancing required is the space between me and the birds. Being outside and watching birds is an incredibly important activity, for many people. It helps reduce stress and bring about some form of normalcy to our lives in this tumultuous time.

Some people are backyard birders, satisfied with whatever Mother Nature throws their way. Some are dedicated listers who want to see birds every day and to immerse themselves in all things birds, as often as possible. Then, there are people like me that love all things birds, but get the most enjoyment out of seeing the rare birds, the migrants that are astray; the birds that should not be where they are currently being seen. That is an adrenaline rush for me. Seeing this rare, lost creature becomes my focus and obsession. We are called "chasers." Some only chase birds within their home county or home state. Others are national level chasers and will chase birds all over the country. I am both. I chase rare bird sightings almost anywhere I can logistically and financially reach. If it is in my home state, I most certainly will drop everything and try and see the bird immediately. I really have no other choice as my mind is now focused on this bird and all other activities are now on the back burner. It is about more than the birds. When I go to a new place to chase a bird, I am exploring a new area of Maryland, or America. Getting to see so much of the diverse landscape, non-avian critters and natural aspects of America is an added special bonus for me.

Luckily, this year has been a banner year for Maryland and the rest of the USA. While people have had to limit their travel and change many plans, the birds didn't. Their lives continued without a hitch, unaware of the challenges around them. For those that aren't traveling but still desire to see some birds that we normally don't see around here, Maryland has had quite a few wonderful avian wonders to keep us busy, close to home. In 2020, I garnered 13 new Maryland life birds and even added 1 lifer from MD, for my USA/ABA list. Twelve of the 13 birds were rare for Maryland.

The year started with a bang on January 18th, when Maryland's 1st state record of black-chinned Hummingbird showed up at a private residence's feeder. A special thanks goes out to Tyler Bell and Jane Kostenko for graciously spending an immense amount of time facilitating a schedule so people could see the bird. As this was a 1st state record, many people wanted to see the bird, as you can only imagine. It was quite the daunting task.

The black-chinned Hummingbird is the western cousin of our local ruby-throated Hummingbird, both members of the *Archilochus* genus of hummingbirds. The most notable visible difference, to a novice birder, would be the black-chinned has

purple gorget (throat) feathers, while the local ruby-throated, as the name suggests, has a ruby-colored gorget. You will notice in the picture the purple gorget feathers beginning to show.



Black-chinned Hummingbird: Photo by Tyler Bell

It wasn't long after this bird that the pandemic hit and the definition of birding changed drastically. You can't plan where a rare bird will show up. Sometimes luck comes into play. It was April 7, 2020, and I was doing an appraisal in Calvert County. As I was finishing up, an incredible rare bird alert came across my phone. Maryland's 2nd occurrence of burrowing owl was just found about 25 miles away. The first was in 1983, in Garrett County. I was in a slight quandary as I was only 25 miles away, and there was a travel ban. As I was so close, and performing essential services, I could not pass up the opportunity. There were other birders there, and most were in their car, and all were maintaining social distancing.

This owl should be south or west of us in Florida, South Texas or Nevada; most definitely not in Maryland. These owls are one of the easiest to find, in their range, as they roost out in the open, usually on the ground, near a drainage ditch, or culvert. They prefer open prairie grassland, with little cover. It is interesting that western individuals prefer to use existing burrows, excavated by prairie dogs and ground squirrels, while the Florida owls prefer to dig their own burrows. This gem of an owl was only seen for about 6 hours and unfortunately



Burrowing Owl: Photo by David Fleischmann

was never re-found.

Birding in June and July, in Maryland, tends to be a slower time of the year. There are lots of fledglings to see, however, and feeder birds are starting to return. And once in a while we get lucky. So, Maryland birders were treated to new two rarities, both doves common in their respective region but unusual here.

The 1st, a white-winged dove, was found June 23rd, at the home of birder Jeff Culler in Howard County. This was MD's 17th state record and 1st for Howard County. The bird began attending Jeff's feeders and decided to stay, often perched for hours in a favorite red maple. This bird is usually found in the southern USA, not much north of Florida on the east coast. It was very kind of Jeff and his neighbors to host many birders in their neighborhood for two days. This beautiful dove was literally 15 feet from the road and seemed to enjoy the paparazzi.



White-winged Dove: Photo by David Fleischmann

Just 33 days later, a cousin of the White-winged Dove showed up at Swan Harbor Farm Park, in Harford County. A Eurasian-collared Dove was found by Kojo Baidoo and Jerald Reb and immediately shared to the birding community. This is MD's 26th state record and 2nd Harford County record. These doves are found virtually everywhere in the US, other than the Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes and New England regions. Its breeding range is expanding, so it will probably be found in all states eventually. At the end of the summer the bird finally departed only to be found a few months later, in the same place, by Joshua Emm. The dove is still being seen at the time of this writing, in late January, 2021.

Swan Harbor Farm Park strikes again! Now that I have mentioned Josh Emm, it would be the appropriate time to bring up one of the craziest rarities of the year. Mid-October, Josh located what was originally identified as an odd dunlin. A week went by, and then eBird reviewer and extreme birder Tim Carney said, hold everything! That is not a Dunlin! Josh had found Maryland's 5th and Harford County's 1st Curlew Sandpiper! The slightly decurved bill is a key field mark, but one not easily-discernible in the field, even by an advanced birder like Josh. This bird breeds on the other side of the planet, in Eurasia. This beautiful shorebird makes frequent stops in remote Alaska locations and along the Eastern seaboard, almost



Eurasian-collared Dove: Photo by Kojo Baidoo

annually.

Unfortunately, as happens much too often to vagrant birds, this bird was found expired, a couple days later. Josh recovered the specimen and it awaits delivery to the Smithsonian Museum archives to become a part of science. Thank you to Mikey Lutmerding for his contacts and setting up this scientific endeavor. RIP Curlew Sandpiper!



Curlew Sandpiper: Photo by Joshua Emm

During Halloween, what's more appropriate than a black & orange bird, in this case Maryland's 7th record and Caroline County's 2nd record of a Black-headed Grosbeak? What's crazy is that the county's 1st ever record occurred in 2011, just a stone's throw away. The bird entertained people from all over the state for several days. A special debt of gratitude goes to Gina Bergey and her entire, large family for being truly hospitable hosts. This bird can be seen fairly easily in Arizona and throughout the west, but not often in Denton, Maryland.

In November, Swan Harbor Farm Park delivered again, this time one of my all-time favorite North American song birds, the mountain bluebird. An unbelievably beautiful bird. Austin Jennings found this one along the entrance Rd into Swan Harbor. You can almost guarantee seeing its local cousin, the eastern bluebird, hanging out on power lines all year long. They were not happy about this western vagrant on their turf, lol.



Black-headed Grosbeak Photo by David Fleischmann

went back multiple times so I could enjoy this bird. To me, it is the epitome of beauty. So many hues of blue. And this individual hadn't even achieved its ultimate adult plumage. One of my life's bucket list photography moments. Trust me when I say this, it is not easy to get in-flight shots of this quick flitting beauty. This bird is my favorite bird of 2020. Not necessarily the rarest, but it truly made the year for me.



Mountain Bluebird Photo by David Fleischmann

What a year it was, and December was no exception. This find belongs to two of Maryland's newest up-and-coming birders: Alina Martin, who is a recent college graduate on a birding mission to see all things birds, and Johnnie Ramos. I am quite confident we all will be chasing many of Alina's finds in the future. I know I look forward to her youthful eyes and ears. Johnnie, who is quite the aspiring new Maryland birder, had a very memorable first year introduction to Maryland, seeing, in 2020, 339 bird species in Maryland. He was helped by his mentor, John Dennehy, who ended up with 336 birds for the year. They have joined an elite group of birders that has reached that milestone. Welcome to the Maryland birding scene!

On December 3, 2020, at about 4 pm, an alert was issued that

Alina and Johnnie had located, not one, but two, western-style Aechmophorus genus grebes. 15 miles and 23 minutes later, I arrived on scene. The identification, which still has not been confirmed, is most likely one pure western grebe and one possible hybrid western/Clark's Grebe. The western grebe would be Maryland's 8th record and Baltimore County's 2nd record. Many people have differing opinions, and the actual identification will probably never be known. These two birds are still present as of this writing. The pair has remained close to the Dulaney Valley Rd Bridge for almost 2 months. They do not leave each other's sight, it seems. Pretty cool birding experience to witness these love birds! They are gorgeous waterfowl.



Grebes Photo by Alina Martin

And no conversation about 2020 rarities would be complete without mentioning the true superstar of the year. On December 30th, an absolutely stunning male Painted Bunting was found by Christopher Coleman, at Great Falls Park, along the C&O Canal in Montgomery County, Maryland. The flying rainbow has since been enjoyed and enamored by literally hundreds, if not over a thousand people, since the original find. He has made a circus of social media, been the subject of several news reports and has even made the Washington Post newspaper. He is quite the ham and is apparently loving the throngs of people that have come out to see him. People have been concerned that all these people would affect the bird and his survival ability. Well, he has now been seen daily, in almost the same identical spot, going on a month. As he has wings, if he was uncomfortable in any way, he certainly would have flown away to a different location by now. He seems content and enjoys being the subject of many photographers, amateurs and professionals alike.

The Painted Bunting is my all-time favorite song bird in all of North America. Maryland plays hosts to at least one or more annually. Both the male and female are astoundingly stunning birds, with juveniles and females being a unique lime-green color. Within the last month or so, there have been multiple continued sightings of Painted Buntings, throughout the state. Many people are predicting that Painted Bunting will be the next breeding species in Maryland. I really look forward to that.

If all of these birds are not enough to satisfy most levels of

birders, there were several other rare birds, seen throughout the year. In mid-November, several different hummingbirds occurred throughout the state. If there is a hummingbird, in Maryland, seen after mid-October, most likely it will not be our local ruby-throated. Odds are it will be a lost vagrant western species. Some of the birds were banded and identified to species, while several will remain unidentified. All of the identified birds were rufous hummingbirds, which are known to have appeared in MD 18 previous times. Most birders were hoping that the hummingbirds might be the rufous' twin, an Allen's Hummingbird, which is much rarer in the state, with only three previous records. One of the banded rufous', from Harford County, is still being seen daily!

Then in mid-December, several western-type flycatchers were seen and photographed in several counties around MD. Western type means that the birds were either Pacific-slope or cordilleran flycatchers, which were once considered the same species, Western Flycatcher, before being split into two. Before these sightings, there was only one previous record of Pacific-slope/cordilleran, from 2015. A DNA sample was obtained from the Frederick County bird, and we are awaiting a definitive ID. If an ID is obtained, it will be a 1st state record of either species. It is more likely to be a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, than a cordilleran, as I believe the latter has never been definitively identified East of the Mississippi. Thank you to Andy Wilson and Kevin Bennett for making the DNA test happen; now we wait for the science to tell us the truth!

What a year 2020 was, 2021 surely will be another memorable year. We all need to hope and pray for a successful end to the pandemic so life can find some form of normalcy again. I know I have a lot of traveling and rare birds to see, so I am very hopeful. Please stay safe, healthy and happy in this more hopeful year of 2021. May birds rule the year again!



Whooper Swan Photo by David Fleischmann
Seen In St. Mary's County and Talbot County in 2020

Unfortunately, probably an escapee and therefore not countable at this time

See David Fleischmann's account on Page 20

YMOS Update – Winter 2021

Photo Big Day

While the students were able to run safe trips during the fall, all decided that a December trip was inadvisable as it was sandwiched between two holidays. In place of that trip, the students decided, in the season's spirit of giving, to do a Photo Big Day to raise funds for a bird-related cause. The Lights Out Baltimore Program with which several students are involved was chosen. On Dec. 12, the students set out with cameras and phones to photograph as many species as possible, staying in their general home area. With a good geographic representation, the students were able to photograph 138 species. With their knowledge of where several rarities were, they were successful in finding most of these and a good assortment of species. Among their finds, which they were able to photograph, were: Brown Booby, Western Grebe, Rufous Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Red Crossbill, and Orange-crowned Warbler, to name a few. Almost as difficult to capture were some of the rarer winter residents such as Common Grackle, Winter Wren, and Gray Catbird. The group was able to raise almost \$2,000.

YMOS would like to thank all who participated. This will become an annual YMOS December event with a different cause being funded each year.

YMOS is Growing!

While it has been difficult to maintain group continuity throughout this COVID period, we have ironically been able to increase the number of students involved, through a combination of field trips and virtual meetings. We have had 40 students participate in YMOS activities since August. Direct any inquiries about the YMOS group to George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com).

Announcing the Annual YMOS Birdathon

March 20-21, 2021

The young birders in the Youth Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) will once again explore the shorelines, marshes, woods and fields of Maryland in quest of at least 140 bird species. As last year, we are modifying our normal Birdathon to avoid unnecessary COVID risk. Rather than traveling as one large group, we'll keep students in family units, those family members and friends they normally are in contact with. Thus, they will find more species than they would as one group.

As usual, there will be a difficult 100 "Must-See" list of species (no Starling, Cardinal, or Canada Goose). Any of these species not found will be a point deducted from their score. For a species to count, it must be confirmed by at least two of the students. The students will create the must-see List in advance of the Birdathon; knowing where they will be birding and what is possible, they'll come up with a challenging list. To be successful, the students will have to do considerable planning and coordination, both before the event and on the actual Birdathon weekend. This high-level of coordination accentuates the event's fun and challenge for the students. Adding to the challenge is the timing of the event, with possible early spring migrants and early departures. And there is NO rain date.

The annual YMOS Birdathon is the principal fund-raiser for the group and is used to underwrite expenses for representing the MOS in the World Series of Birding (WSB), the world's foremost birding competition, organized by New Jersey Audubon, in May. Other portions of the fund will be used to:

- Upgrade our optics, many of which are loaned to participating students. We are always looking to get optics and supplies into areas often missed by the MOS chapters.
- Make a small donation to the Black and Latinx Scholarship Program.

The youth invite your pledges of \$0.25, \$0.50, or \$1.00 per species seen over their two days in the field. We also accept outright donations. You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu) or George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com). Those who pledge will receive an advance copy of the Must-See list. After the Birdathon, you will receive a report of all species identified and the amount you owe, based on the net species total after any penalty deductions for must-see misses.

Donations can be made online via PayPal on the MOS Donate page (mdbirds.org). Be sure to note that your donation is for the "YMOS Birdathon".

Thank you in advance for your encouragement of this remarkable group of youngsters and, of course, the parents and coaches who rise early and drive long hours to make it all happen.

--George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell

Proposed High Speed Train Threatens Habitat at Patuxent Research Refuge and Other Federal Lands

By Marcia Watson

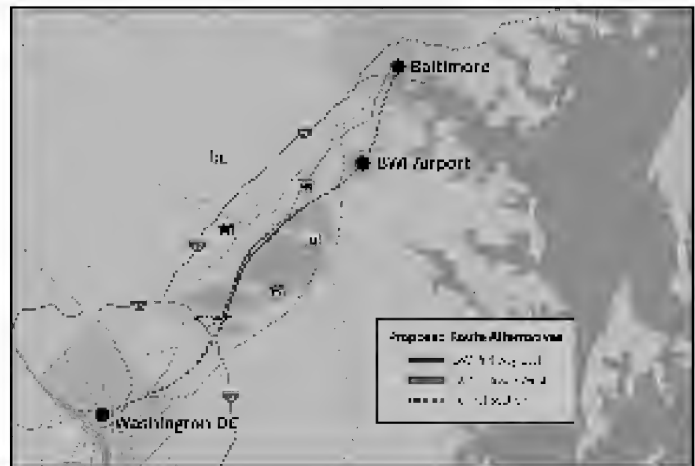
Earlier versions of this article appeared in the [Winter issue of the Friends of Patuxent Newsletter](#) and in the [January-February issue of the Patuxent Bird Club newsletter](#). The version below was updated on 2/12/21.

As many are aware, a private company is planning to build an ultra-high-speed train (reaching over 300 mph) to carry passengers between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The train is advertised to make the trip in about 15 minutes. What you may not know is that the proposed train route would slice through the edge of Patuxent Research Refuge, and that the train's infrastructure will destroy fragile habitats that the Refuge was designed to protect.

The project is known as the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting MAGLEV Project, or SCMAGLEV or MAGLEV for short. "MAGLEV" is an acronym for "Magnetic Levitation;" the train would operate by hovering above metal tracks using a levitation system powered by magnets.

Only three passenger stations would be built: in south Baltimore, in downtown Washington D.C., and at BWI Airport. There would be no local stops: this would not be a train to serve local commuters or communities. Eventually, the train line would be extended to New York and Boston.

The proposed SCMAGLEV train would be operated in the United States under a private company, and part of the funding would be provided by the Japanese company that operates the existing "Bullet Train" in Japan. However, the SCMAGLEV technology is NOT the same as that used by the Bullet Train; the SCMAGLEV technology is new and there is only a 27-mile section of test track in existence using this new technology. The test track is located near Osaka, Japan. That section is to be expanded to provide commercial service starting in 2027 from Tokyo to Nagoya City and in 2037 for the Tokyo to Osaka. Currently the Osaka project is experiencing financial and other difficulties. In other words, the proposed project here is relying on technology that is unproven, both in terms of its technical feasibility, its environmental impacts, and its commercial viability.



A definite route has not yet been chosen for the SCMAGLEV train here. When the SCMAGLEV project was first announced in 2017, there were a large number of possible routes that the train might take between Baltimore and D.C. Since that time, the possibilities have been narrowed to just two possible routes, one running along the west side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295), and one running along the east side of the Parkway. The proposed route along the eastern side of the Parkway goes through the Patuxent Research Refuge's North Tract, impacting the trail system there. Much of the Baltimore to D.C. route would run underground through deep tunnels, but the part running through and past Patuxent Research Refuge would be above ground, carried on piers between 30 and 130 feet high, varying with the topography. There is also a theoretical "No Build" option that has been included in project planning as a logical alternative.

The huge extent of the project makes it difficult to adequately describe its wide-reaching impacts. This article is focusing on impacts to ecosystems and habitat at Patuxent Research Refuge and other federal facilities and public lands. For a full discussion of the impacts on human communities, including environmental justice and safety issues, see the [Stop This Train](https://www.stopthistrain.org/) website at <https://www.stopthistrain.org/>.

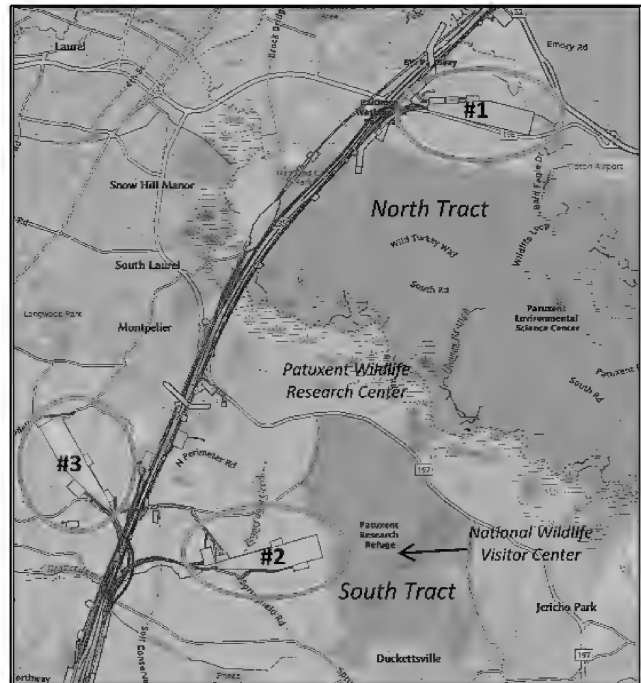
The proposed train route and its associated structures would require use of federal lands including pieces of Patuxent Research Refuge (both North and South Tracts), the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (operated as a scenic parkway by the National Park Service), and lands of other federal agencies. In addition, county parks and open spaces operated by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), by Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation, and by towns such as Greenbelt and Maryland City would be impacted, for example, Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Northway Fields Park/North Woods in

Greenbelt, and Maryland City Park.

The project would involve the construction not only of rails (known in SCMagLEV parlance as guideways), but also of underground tunnels, tunnel exits, air shafts, emergency exits, a maintenance yard, and associated service structures, parking lots, entry ramps, and roads. The maintenance yard, where trains will undergo routine service, washing, and repairs, would be very large, almost 200 acres.

As shown in the map at right, currently there are three possible sites for the 200-acre maintenance yard, only one of which would be built:

1. On the north side of MD Route 198, east of the interchange with the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. This yard would be sited primarily on land owned by the U.S. Government adjacent to the northwest corner of the North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge. This parcel houses the Maya Angelou Academy at New Beginnings and the Maryland Job Corps' Woodland Job Corps Center. The supporting roads and other infrastructure would use Patuxent Research Refuge land, as would the track alignment on the east side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The yard, as drawn on the SCMagLEV maps, extends across the Little Patuxent River.
2. Along Springfield Road south of Powder Mill Road. This yard would use the old airstrip at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and would overlie Beaverdam Creek, which is part of the Anacostia-Potomac watershed. The yard would extend into South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge, coming within 1500 yards of the National Wildlife Visitor Center and within 450 yards of the entrance drive. New roads accessing the facility would be built across BARC lands west of Springfield Road.
3. Along the west side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, extending from Powder Mill Road north to Odell Road. This facility would be built on BARC and other USDA lands.



This large maintenance yard would be a heavy-industry facility consisting of an unbroken swath of buildings, pavement, metal, and gravel. There would be no habitat supporting any type of wildlife. The buildings and outdoor facilities would operate 24/7, with associated noise and lights.

Currently, Patuxent Research Refuge, BARC, and other adjacent federal lands occupy over 20,000 acres and constitute the largest block of undeveloped land in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Numerous research studies have established that fragmentation of habitat by roads and buildings reduces nesting success of breeding birds, and disrupts migration and dispersal corridors used by terrestrial mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

The lands that would be impacted by the train maintenance yard and other supporting structures contain habitats rare for our region, such as sand barrens and bogs. Patuxent Research Refuge and BARC are studded with freshwater wetlands that protect the water quality of the Little Patuxent and Patuxent Rivers. These habitats support native plants that are rare for our region, along with unique insect and wildlife communities that depend on them. Every one of the three possible sites for the train maintenance yards would impact such habitats. The proposed placement of these maintenance yards could not be worse from an environmental perspective. It is not known why the project leadership has not instead planned for use of available industrial-zoned spaces in Baltimore or Washington.

The impacts of the SCMagLEV project on habitats at Patuxent Research Refuge and BARC were extensively reviewed by biologist Sam Droege in a presentation hosted by the Maryland Native Plant Society on October 27, 2020. A recorded session of Droege's presentation is available courtesy of the Native Plant Society at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCXM3FiXoY8>. A detailed written description of the impacts to habitat at Patuxent Research Refuge and at BARC, including photos of actual train yards in China, is provided on the *Stop This Train* website at <https://www.stopthistrain.org/biological-and-ecological-concerns>.

Given the unproven nature of the SCMAGLEV technology, there are many unanswered questions about other possible ecological and environmental impacts of the project, including

- Impacts of runoff of chemicals used in train washing and maintenance on water quality of streams and rivers;
- Disruption of underground aquifers by the tunneling process;
- Effects of magnetic fields on wildlife and on humans: it is known that some bird species rely on the earth's magnetic fields for navigation during migration, and the effects of the train's magnetic fields have simply not been studied.

Significantly, the proposed taking of federal lands for use by a private, for-profit company is apparently unprecedented. It is unclear what process would be needed to authorize such a taking, but it likely would require an act of Congress.

The SCMAGLEV project is receiving support from some business and political leaders in Baltimore and Washington, DC. However, a large number of community groups are opposed to the project, citing the negative impacts on their communities in the absence of any benefits to local citizens. These citizen groups question the economic benefits cited by the train project. Moreover, the economic projections for the train have not been revised to account for the massive changes in commuter use of roadways and public transit in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the website <https://stopthistrain.org/> for further details of the impacts on human communities.

In addition to submitting comment on the DEIS, here are some other steps you can take:

Currently, the project is moving through the federally-mandated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process which requires preparation and public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The **Draft Environmental Impact Statement is now available for public review, with a 90-day public comment period ending on April 22, 2021.** You can access it at <https://bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis> and use the drop-down menu near the top of the page to view and/or download the various sections of the statement. The appendices are available in a separate drop-down menu. Instructions for submitting comments are posted on the same website. We hope MOS members will submit comments advocating that **the "No Build" option be adopted**: that is, the MAGLEV project should not be built because of the irreversible destruction of critical habitat at the Refuge and other public lands.

1. **Sign an online petition** against SCMAGLEV at <https://www.change.org/p/larry-hogan-stop-the-train-support-the-no-build-alternative>. The petition is sponsored by a citizens' group in Greenbelt.
2. **Study closely the information available** at the official project website <http://www.bwmaglev.info/> and especially the interactive project map at <https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/3126ba14ebf54d3887e95f257ca5d054>. Note that at the top right of the interactive map, there are two tiny icons that allow you to change the layers shown in the map as well as the base map, so that you can better visualize different aspects of the project. Also note that if you click on any color-shaded overlay that shows a component of the project, a small pop-up window will appear near the upper left of the map, identifying that component.
3. Also **study the materials available** at the website <https://stopthistrain.org/> or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CitizensAgainstSCMaglev/>. Note the following sections of the website:
 - a. "About the MAGLEV" (<https://www.stopthistrain.org/abouthttps://www.stopthistrain.org/about>) contains background about the project and about Citizens against SCMAGLEV.
 - b. The page at <https://www.stopthistrain.org/questions> shows a list of unanswered questions and concerns, including discussion of the impacts on human communities
 - c. The page <https://www.stopthistrain.org/biological-and-ecological-concerns> goes into more depth than this article on the ecological concerns surrounding the project.
 - d. A page with contact information for elected officials and government agencies is at <https://www.stopthistrain.org/take-action>.
 - e. A wide variety of resources for citizens are at <https://www.stopthistrain.org/downloads-and-resources>. This page includes downloadable documents on how to prepare comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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4. Please **contact your local legislators** (town, county, state) with your questions, comments, and concerns.
5. We believe it will be of prime importance to **contact your representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate**. It is likely that an act of Congress will be needed to authorize the taking of federal lands for this private project. Your elected representatives in Congress can be reached using contact information available at <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/39fed/06ushse/html/rep.html#rep> and <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/39fed/05ussen/html/sen.html>.

We hope that MOS members – as well as your friends and neighbors – will step up to protect the Refuge that we all cherish. It is irreplaceable.

Linda Kay Griggs Baker

Linda Kay Griggs Baker of Severna Park passed away on October 31 due to gall bladder cancer.

She was predeceased by her parents Charles and Janice Griggs of Muncy, PA and is survived by her husband of 55 years, Dennis Baker; son Douglas Baker, daughter-in-law Kathy Baker, granddaughter Fiona Baker; daughter Margaret Sommers, son-in-law Robert Sommers, granddaughter Stephanie Sommers, and grandson Charles Sommers, her sister Rae Glasgow of Bensalem, PA, and her lifelong best friend Ruth Dudley of Sacramento, CA. She is also being missed by her affectionate Siamese cat, Pogo.

As a birder for many years, she was a member of the Anne Arundel Bird Club and served for two years as its president, and for several others as its Director to the Maryland Ornithological Society. She participated in Christmas and other Bird Counts and the Fort Smallwood Park Hawk Watch. She was an observer collecting data for the 2002-2006 Maryland and DC Breeding Bird Atlas and participated in observations and data collections for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Her activities in Maryland and nearby environs included many birding trips, and travels with her husband emphasized nature and history with visits to national, state and private parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and even wastewater treatment plants. She kept bird feeders and selected house plantings to attract birds and provide food for various times of the year.

She was a founding member in 1980 of the Annapolis Quilt Guild and participated in its annual show as a contributor and worker. She was also a founding member of the Kinder Farm Park Quilt Guild, and she belonged to the Hands All Around Quilt Bee. Among her quilting activities, she made quilts and dressed teddy bears for the Salvation Army at Christmas and made other charity quilts.

She was a founding member of the Friends of Kinder Farm Park where she advocated for all the creatures of the park when conflicting interests might not be recognized by others and received the Golden Horseshoe Award for outstanding volunteer service. She was a member of the Annapolis Horticultural Society, and served as a Cub Scout Den Leader,

a Boy Scout Troop Committee Member, and a parent supporter for the Annapolis High School Marching Band.

Linda loved to cook, continually augmenting a library of cookbooks and was constantly reading those and others in selecting recipes to try or experiment.

Growing up adjacent to a family farm and in a tradition of home grown fruits and vegetables, she canned, pickled, made jams and jellies and the like, all to the delight of her family and friends.

With her husband, she traveled extensively with multiple cross-country camping road trips and others in which they visited all 50 states, including a trip west along the entire 3073 miles of US 50 from Ocean City MD to the western end in Sacramento, CA, and, among others, a trip to Churchill, Manitoba to see polar bears in the wild.

Persons wishing to make a contribution in Linda's memory may do so however they wish. Suggestions by her family are as follows: 1. First and foremost, the Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122. 2. Anne Arundel Bird Club, 1750 Birdbrook Trail, Annapolis, MD 21401 (for the Chimney Swift Nesting Tower Project). 3. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, online or 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850. 4. National Audubon Society online or ATTN Donations, 225 Varick St, 7th floor, New York, NY 10014. and 5. National Park Foundation, online or 1500 K Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005.



Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 -- Progress in 2020

The Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 had a remarkably successful first year. This five-year project is documenting the distribution, abundance, and timing of every bird species that nests in Maryland and DC. Despite a pandemic that prevented any group outings, limited how far participants could travel, and imposed mask-wearing that inevitably fogged binoculars, observers submitted well over a million individual observations of birds to the Atlas database. Over 250,000 of those birds exhibited some form of breeding behavior—nearly as many individual breeding records as both previous atlases combined. Over 900 observers spent 38,000 hours searching for breeding birds—over half the effort recorded by the previous atlas—and managed to cover 96% of the region.

Observers documented over 200 species breeding across the region, including four species that had never been recorded by a previous atlas. The Mississippi Kite—a steel-gray, red-eyed hawk—was found at a nest in Calvert County. Rusty brown, long-legged Sandhill Cranes were found with chicks in

Garrett County and Merlins, a diminutive but ferocious falcon, were found nesting in Garrett and Allegany Counties. Finally, a pair of White Ibis—red-faced herons with curved bills—were photographed with chicks in their nest on a Somerset County island.

The year-round diligence of atlasers also reset a number of nest records. The nests of a dozen species were found earlier than ever previously found in Maryland or DC, and three species had nests found later than ever recorded.

The project's importance to conservation in Maryland was recognized with a Governor's Citation. In September, Atlas Coordinator Gabriel Foley met with Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford and DNR Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and accepted the citation on behalf of all atlasers.

The data collected in 2020 have put the Atlas in an exceptional position for reaching its goals. If you'd like to participate, simply identify the bird you see, classify its behavior using the provided breeding codes, and submit the observation to ebird.org/atlasmdc. For more details, download the Handbook at bit.ly/AtlasHandbook or email the Coordinator at mddcbba3@mdbirds.org.



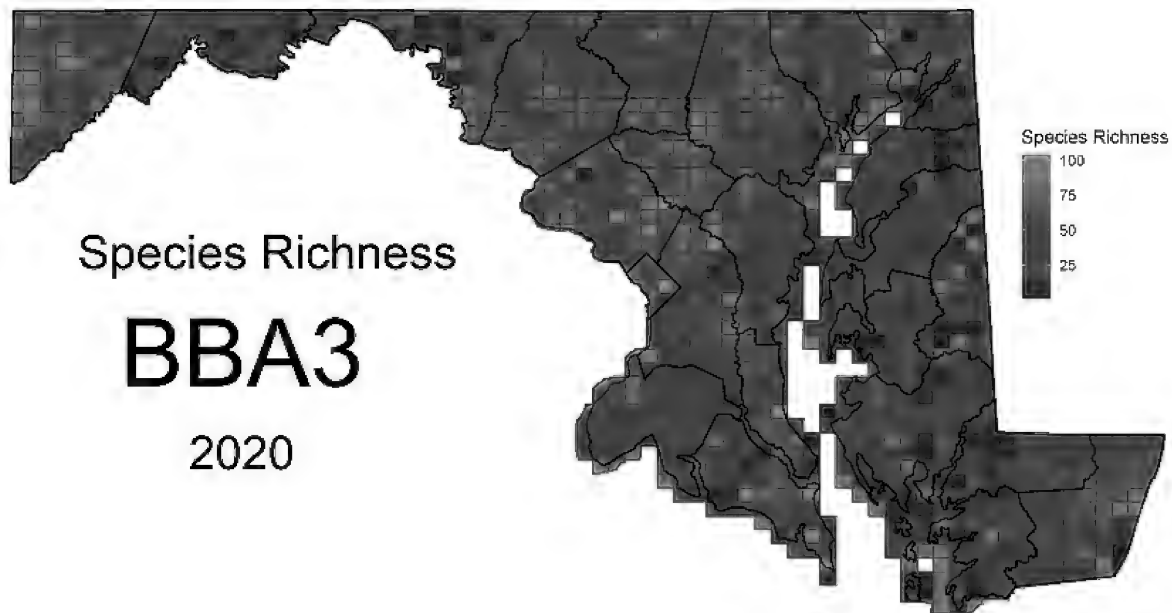
On behalf of participants in the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3, Atlas Coordinator Gabriel Foley accepted a Governor's Citation from Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford and DNR Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. Photo credit: Executive Office of the Governor.

Long suspected of nesting in Maryland but never confirmed, a White Ibis nest was found in Somerset County by four exceptional, young atlasers in June 2020. Photo credit: Gabriel Foley





Hours of atlaser effort in 2020 put into finding breeding birds in each 3 x 3 mile block across the region



Number of species documented breeding in 2020 in each 3 x 3 block across the region



ANNE ARUNDEL

2020 Pandemic Birding

Like most of us, my birding trips have been curtailed due to the pandemic. I've been working more and birding less. I have spent time working in my office and looking out my office window at the woods and nesting boxes and bird feeders. I have a nice woods, which in the past, has been quite good for birds.

This year migrants were few and far between, and hummingbirds were almost nonexistent. Some of the regulars were back vying for different nesting boxes. I have one box for House Wrens, and they promptly moved in and filled up the nesting box with twigs. They had two broods. I'm not sure how they can even get in and out of the box since it was so full of twigs. There is one Bluebird box that was promptly taken over, and the Bluebirds also raised two broods. These Bluebirds were very attentive and were fending off other birds that were peeking into their box.

I had set up a ceramic nesting box on my front porch that my older son Chris had made many years ago in a ceramics class. It's an attractive piece, and a few sparrows would use it, but their nesting was unsuccessful due to human interference. I got tired of cleaning out the junk they bring in and removing the extra eggs so I took the ceramic nesting box to my back yard and hung it from a beam off my deck outside my office window. I was going to clean out the junk, but before I could do that the Bluebirds moved into this ceramic nesting box, House Sparrow junk and all. They abandoned the newly made cleaned out nesting box that I made for the them. The House Sparrows moved around back and were interested in getting in their old ceramic nesting box, but the Bluebirds were very aggressive and kept them out.

I have another Bluebird box screwed to a post off my deck. House Wrens, Bluebirds, and House Sparrows have used it in the past, but not for at least a year. The House Sparrow decided to use the old beat-up wooden box. This made it much easier for me to clean out the extra eggs, and that kept them busy laying more eggs. They left the Bluebirds alone for the most part. The activity for the Bluebirds started to really speed up once they had young to feed. I wasn't watching all the time, but I would see one adult come in and drop off some food and remove a fecal sac, and less than a minute later another Bluebird would zip in and repeat the same, feed and get rid of the fecal sac. They did have a few visitors including chickadees and titmice which for some reason liked to look in.

An occasional Sparrow would also attempt a peek. This was not tolerated and the sparrows were whacked. I've never seen Bluebirds this aggressive. When I went out to add water to the bird baths and add bird seed to the feeder they did not appreciate my visit. In the past sparrows would get in and actually kill the young and the adult Bluebird.

This was a real successful year for the Bluebirds in my backyard. Not as exciting a spring and summer birding season as going to Columbia on a two-week birding trip or going out to Magee Marsh for a week and then leading field trips at the MOS convention in western Maryland. My son Christopher and his wife Elisabeth have gotten into birding, and we were going to go to Magee Marsh and the MOS convention. Hopefully next year we're past the pandemic and we can go back to birding as per normal.

On October 16, Peter updated his "home based birding".

I thought you might like this information about my home birding from my office chair. Not very aerobic but the birds did get me out of my chair to go out on the deck to see what other birds would come into view.

57 degrees and cloudy with 78% humidity - in between showers

I looked out my upstairs office window this morning and there were three very aggressive birds on my sunflower feeder. When I took a closer look they were Pine Siskins. I guess my old thistle seed wasn't to their liking so sunflowers would have to do. This was a nice surprise since birding has been very slow at my home this fall.

At around 2 o'clock I looked out again to see if the siskins were hanging around. They were and they were joined by lots of other birds.

1 - Black-throated Blue Warbler male - Catching caterpillars from my denuded locust trees

1 - Red-breasted Nuthatch - It sat on the top area of my sunflower feeder and grabbed a seed in between the siskin frenzy.

2 - White-breasted Nuthatches - Much bigger than the Red-breasted Nuthatch they scattered just about all the birds off the feeder but the siskins were the first to come back.

3 - Pine Siskins - Making their distinctive call and flying on to the feeder to disrupt the House Finches

A steady stream of Chickadees and Titmice were taking advantage of the feeder also.

A Towhee was calling in the woods and Cardinals were also calling but didn't make an appearance on the feeder. My Cardinals have adapted to sitting on the feeder which years ago this never seemed to happen.

1 - White-throated Sparrow was in one of the trees in the back yard. Another sure sign winter is coming.

2 - Ravens flew just over the tree tops heading away from my yard. They have become quite regular in our area.

A few Crows made a fly by after the Ravens left the area. I'm not sure how well Crows and Ravens get along?

The party was over when a female Cooper's Hawk flew through the woods and disappeared into a thick area of woods. All the birds exited stage left.

I called *Alan Young*, my eBird mentor. It was time to make a check list since I had some nice birds as noted above. I had a training session with Alan months ago on eBird but never acted on it. Alan was very nice to have a refresher course and guided me through the process of doing a check list, and just before we ended our conversation I spotted a Dark-eyed

Junco. Another bird for the list, and it looks like with the front coming through tomorrow, it will be a good day to go birding. I was one up on Alan since he had not seen a Dark-eyed Junco this fall. After reviewing various outings that Allen and Sue have gone on I am way behind on seeing rare birds this fall.

Peter Hanan- Millersville, MD

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

"Random acts of kindness, and of course a bird!"

Those that know me, know I love birds. All birds; I love wild birds, I really love rare birds. I love exotic birds, I love escaped birds; heck, I even like escaped exotic birds.

Let's start with the bird. Today was one of those days that I will not soon forget! As we are in the summer doldrums of birding, awaiting Fall migration to begin, I look for any bird that gives me a chance for a road trip. The Gull-billed Tern, being seen, is a little too far away. So I opted to go see the Whooper Swan that has been around southern Maryland for a few months. It started in St Mary's county and is now in Talbot county, in Easton. This individual is not countable, but is a beautiful cool bird, nonetheless. And I do keep an exotic species list separate from my countable ABA list and am always willing to add exotic birds to my photo repertoire.

Unbelievable birding experience. Even though it was for a non-countable Whooper Swan, the overall experience was unforgettable. Now for the kindness part. After searching the view-able area for the swan, I could not locate it. I had just driven 90 miles to look for it, so I was not happy. I was on my way back to the car when I passed a dock with a few fishing boats. I went to the dock and found a fisherman, by the name of Bliz, short for Blizzard, sitting on his boat. I asked him if he would let me pay him to give me a quick boat ride, around the cove. After explaining my disappointing situation to him, he was like: hop on, let's go. 10 minutes later, we found the swan; I shot a few distant pictures, and we motored back to the dock. Did I forget to say he was a crabber, just returning from the days catch? I asked if I could buy a dozen crabs. He was like, there will be no charge, I said nonsense, and gave him \$40. He gave me more than a dozen monster crabs, worth \$130 a dozen, in today's market. This genuine guy didn't even know me and was willing to give me crabs and a free boat tour. He was thoroughly thankful for the money. I was equally thankful for the ride, swan and crabs.

The kindness didn't end there. As I was driving away the thought of a better picture crossed my mind. I decided to try a side road to see if I could get a view of the shoreline. No luck. So, I picked a private driveway, with the swan in backyard, and decided the humble approach would be needed. As I slowly approached the home I saw a landscaper-type guy. He approached me, and I explained about the swan and he was more than willing to allow me to park and take a walk. This was no ordinary house. It was a massive estate that had many houses, barns, buildings and various staff. It was called the River House. I told the landscaper that I had live crabs in the car and asked him if I could leave the car running so the crabs didn't die. Absolutely, he says. I was able to get crippling (awesome) photos of the swan. I offered a tip to the friendly guy and he would not take any money. He did accept my offer of some live crabs though!

So, many acts of kindness and I got some great pictures of a bird not seen in the wild often and a dozen behemoth crabs. 200 miles later and I was home eating some amazing colossal

crabs and enjoying the memory of today's many kind folks. Kindness is needed now more than ever!!" *Hugh David Fleischmann*

The Travails of Running a Bird Club in the Pandemic

In a normal year the Baltimore Bird Club would have very little business during summer Months (June-August) except a field trip or two, so no official record is kept of summer Board activities. But this has been no normal year, primarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It started back in April when we canceled the remaining spring lectures because of social distancing requirements and because Cylburn Arboretum closed its buildings to the public (although the grounds remained open). That affected us in several ways. First of all, we could not vote in-person on new candidates for the BBC Board as mandated in our by-laws. However, that vote would not have happened even if we could meet because we had not yet identified new candidates—needed for President, Board Director and MOS Director positions.

The situation was made worse because *Mark Linardi*, president until September 1st, 2020, decided he did not want to go forward with a second term because of work pressures and some health issues. Normally new candidates are proposed during Board meetings, but there were no in-person meetings, and this was difficult to discuss by Zoom. So a couple of long-term Board members (*Peter Lev*, *Carol Schreter* and myself, *Joan Cwi*), took it upon ourselves to form an ad hoc nominating committee, which Mark blessed. During the month of June, we must have talked to twenty five people about their willingness to take on one of these roles or suggestions for others who might want them. It was hard work, added to the fact that at this same time we were pulling together the fall Program Booklet, *ChipNotes*, and renewal package. But by July, we were quite pleased with the outcomes. *Joe Corcoran* is incredibly well suited for the President's job and his wife, *Linda Corcoran* had already agreed to be the new Recording Secretary. We discovered *Libby Errickson* for MOS Director through the suggestion of several people, and finally persuaded *Nico Sarbanesto* to be Board Director. Nico is back in town starting law school in the fall. And finally *John Dennehy* agreed to be the Collections Chairperson, although with the Mansion closed and the new museum not built, it is hard to say what he will be doing for awhile! So, pat on the back to the nominating committee!

So, we come to July and we have had no in-person meetings for months. How do we vote on our candidates? The vote is a two-prong process. First, current Board members have to approve, then the general membership has to vote. Enter our gallant web master, Terry Ross, who developed an online voting system that was sent out to both groups. It worked very well, and the proposed candidates won by a landslide. Our 2020-2021 Board, starting September 1st, includes:

PRESIDENT: Joe Corcoran VICE PRESIDENT: Kevin Graff*
TREASURER: Dick Krejci

RECORDING SECRETARY: Linda Corcoran MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Terry Ross

BBC DIRECTOR: Nancy O'Hara BBC DIRECTOR: Nico Sarbanes
BBC DIRECTOR: Mary Shock

STATE (MOS) DIRECTOR: Joan Cwi STATE (MOS) DIRECTOR: Mary-Ann Fluke

STATE (MOS) DIRECTOR: Libby Errickson

What next? We examined our summer bird walks and those being proposed for the fall season and felt we had to add information about the pandemic and social distancing. So we added the following notation to all walks for the near future: **RSVP Leader Required. Trip limited to 10 participants. Be Prepared that Masks and Social Distancing May Be Required.** Some trip leaders canceled their trips in advance because of the fear of contagion.

BBC has a deadline each quarter to get trip information to MOS for the Yellowthroat. The next one was September 25th. The Field Trip Committee was having difficulty due to personnel conflicts and couldn't get it done. Joe, now officially president, stepped up to the ranks and began to take charge in identifying and compiling fall walks. Thank you, Joe, for stepping in! And thank you, *John Dennehy*, for hanging in there to compile the files for our Program Booklet.

Future lectures presented an additional problem. We decided that we would hold the lectures via Zoom. Our September lecture would have been canceled because the scheduled lecturer did not want to do it that way, but our new President stepped up and agreed to fill in. Joe worked with *Terry Ross* to create an online Zoom presentation that would then be downloaded into a YouTube link. It was a great solution. The Zoom meeting included questions and answers at the end. So, between the two (Zoom online then YouTube), we had over 140 participants, more than four times our usual amount! We will continue to use this format in the near future.

One last note: During the summer, the Conservation Committee held an online meeting, but we were all so TIRED of online! So we decided in June to hold an outdoor meeting in my backyard, all of us bringing lawn chairs and distancing 6 feet apart. It was a beautiful evening, and everyone felt so good to be with others in real time. Plus we got to meet some new members. As a double blessing, one of my neighbors came by to say there was a featherless bird that fell out of a nest in her front yard. Could we help her? Of course we did. Libby tried to climb a ladder to place the bird in a nest, but it was too high. So she brought the bird home for the night and took it to the Phoenix Wildlife Center the next morning, where it is doing fine.

So birdlife has been different. Not necessarily better, but perhaps there are ongoing lessons to be learned. *Joan Cwi*

CECIL COUNTY

With most of the Cecil birding community sitting home since last checking in with you, *Ken Drier* was busy putting out a couple of internet birding challenges for his birding and non-birding friends. First up was a birding ID quiz with a narrative trip around the world. Birds such as the Southern Ground Hornbill from South Africa, the Boreal Owl from the MOS trip to northern Minnesota earlier this year, Red-necked Woodpeckers from the Amazon Basin and the Chestnut-breasted Coronet Hummingbird from Ecuador were placed before the birders to identify. Cecil's *Paula Conoscenti* and *Maryanne Dolan*, Harford Club member, *Karen Kennedy*, and representing Somerset County *Pat Valdata* were involved. Delaware and New York State birders also tested their ID skills.

Ken followed the quiz up with a competition to see who could put together the longest yard bird list in a week back in July. The same aforementioned MOS members participated in this

birding challenge as well. Harford member *Karen Kennedy* took home the crown with around 40 birds. The group tallied close to fifty birds so after a week's break the group decided to work cooperatively to try for 50 birds. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Blue Grosbeaks were all seen. *Pat Valdata* came in with Brown Pelicans and photo documentation to back it up. How cool are Pelicans on a yard list really? The group had a combined yard list of 52 species. Everyone had so much fun checking in each day that it was decided to make the yard list challenge a seasonal one. With fall migration getting under way it might just be time to start the next combined yard list round. In fact the group did indeed participate in Round II of the Backyard Bird List from October 1st through the 5th. And what a list the group again tallied: Merlins, Sharpies, Bald Eagles, as well as five warbler species, a Snowy Egret, and, perhaps the best birds, the 15 Sandhill Cranes flying over Karen's house seen by her while swinging, appropriately, in her backyard. Paula closed out the list with Ravens calling to make it an even 60 birds for the five day period. Now we can't wait for Round III come winter. Stay tuned.

Cecil closed out the first year of the Atlas Project in the top ten counties for the number of confirmed species with 92, despite logging the sixth least amount of hours in the field of all 24 counties. This represents over seventy percent of the 129 coded species tallied in the county by Cecil birders. All 53 blocks have data recorded for them as well. Cecil is off to a great start. Thanks to all who have participated in this all-important endeavor.

On a side note, somewhere, sometime, back in the spring Ken Drier was bitten by a Lone Star Tick. For those of you who don't know, bites from these critters can give you Alpha-gal Syndrome. Alpha-gal Syndrome makes one allergic to red meat and possibly other animal products such as cheese and milk. It can last three to five years. Dress appropriately when out in the field to avoid this. Stay safe, well and good birding. *Ken Drier*

HARFORD COUNTY

BBA3 Completes its first year

The Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 has wrapped up data collection for the first year, and despite, or maybe thanks to, COVID19, we had a very successful start. All but eight of 58 blocks received some coverage, and over 90 species have been confirmed for the county. APG presented a problem, as much of the territory is restricted access, and most workers were operating from home, so we hope to give it attention in the remaining four years of data collection. Twelve of the previously-known nesting warblers were confirmed, and another 3 were probable. That only leaves Blue-winged Warbler (coded in one block as possible) to find. Maybe there will be another surprise warbler to discover. So far the only new confirmed nester, compared to prior atlases, is the Common Raven, which has been a regular nester at the Vulcan stone quarry north of Havre de Grace. The pair of Trumpeter Swans that spend the summer at the Route 24/40 Home Depot ponds could never seem to find the time to lay and incubate a fertile egg, despite giving us signs that they were interested - maybe next year, which would represent a state and county first nesting.

If you have not been involved in this first year with data collection and would like to be part of this important citizen science project in the remaining four years, please let either

Dennis Kirkwood or Matt Hafner know of your interest, and we can include you in our email list and training next spring. Over 70 people contributed data this year, and we hope you will consider being part of the effort. Safe dates begin as early as December 15 for Great Horned Owls, so enjoy the two month break! *Dennis Kirkwood*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Josephine Cox wrote of being a first-time atlaser :

I retired in April of this year but many of my retirement plans evaporated with the arrival of COVID-19. However, one plan was to do more birding. As it happens, I had already signed up for a Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3) tract in the Sandy Spring SW area near Olney. I was somewhat familiar with this area, but not necessarily for birding. After pouring over the BBA3 map and looking for suitable bird habitat where I could park and walk or bike, I settled on 3 areas that turned out to be quite productive. The Olney Manor Recreational Park has 2 nice ponds where two Wood Ducks fledged at least 6 chicks, with 8 adult birds still at the pond at the end of August. Despite as many as 70 Canada Geese at any one time at the ponds, only one pair successfully fledged 5 young. I was thrilled to find 2 Orchard Oriole nests and lots of Kingbirds. A pair of Little Green Herons was always around, but in spite of searching high and low I did not find a nest. I got several other common breeding birds at this location.

The second location was part of upper Rock Creek adjacent to Bowie Mill Park and north of the ICC. There is a great 3-4 mile loop with lots of different habitats, including open brushy areas, some marsh areas and Rock Creek itself. Even the housing development was somewhat productive. Turkeys were the best find at this location, including a displaying male on April 25th. I saw the turkeys a couple of times after that, but then had to curtail my foraging in the dense grasses because of poison ivy, brambles etc. I hope to check them out again this winter. Lots of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Great-crested Flycatchers, and dozens of Bluebirds. In early August, *Anne Mytych* and I were lucky to find breeding Blue Grosbeaks. I also had a good sighting of a pair of Prairie Warblers.

The third location was south of Olney Mill Road, where the hiker-biker path extends all the way along the northern end of Rock Creek. I got lucky one day when I was biking the path. I was distracted by a young fawn running into the woods when I heard something that caught my attention. I spotted a Cooper's Hawk nest with four big fluffy chicks in it on June 8th. I returned frequently to the nest, and I am pretty sure all four hawks made it to adulthood. The female was often seen near the nest delivering food to the hungry chicks. Of course, it is great to see breeding Cooper's Hawks even though they eat other birds! The other great sighting was a Yellow Breasted Chat displaying in a patch of low growing bushes in an area designated for deer hunting in the fall. All in all, I was happy with my BBA3 adventures, both looking for birds and getting exercise. With help from *Anne Mytych*, a total of 55 species, 35 confirmed, 11 possible and 9 probable were observed in the sector. I look forward to resuming BBA3 activity next spring.

Mike Bowen wrote of looking for migrants in New England:

In what seemed at the time to be a terrifically bold adventure, *Anne Cianni* and I made a 7-day trip to Connecticut and Massachusetts in late September, taking our first airplane trip since

returning from an Amazon River cruise in Peru in February, 2020. Armed with proof of negative Covid results, which no one at the Bradley Airport public health desk looked at, we rented a car and drove off to stay a couple of nights in West Hartford, followed by three nights near Lenox in the beautiful Berkshire mountains of western Massachusetts.

Naturally, we birded at every opportunity. Much to our consternation, however, there proved to be very few birds near our rural Berkshire County house up at about 1500 ft. elevation. Blue Jays, Hairy Woodpeckers, White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos were everywhere, but little else. Where the heck were the migrants, we wondered. After a while, it occurred to us that migrants might quite reasonably prefer to migrate along the rivers rather than over high mountaintops. So, we took off for the nearby Housatonic River near Great Barrington. Sure enough, that's where the birds were -- moving south in numbers. The Housatonic here is a lot smaller than at its mouth in Milford, CT, where it empties into Long Island Sound. At Berkshire Natural Resources Council's beautiful Housatonic Flats Reserve, a Peregrine Falcon zipped by to assure us that we were in the right place. We quickly assembled a nice list of locals and migrants while birding the loop trail along the river: 7 species of warbler, including Tennessee and Black-throated Green, and, much to our surprise, a male Red-breasted Nuthatch -- surprising because there's nary a pine tree in this neck of the woods. Lots of Eastern Phoebe, too, slowly moving south for the winter, and gobs of Song Sparrows and American Goldfinches.

Back in Connecticut a few days later we decided to continue the "bird the river" motif and visited South Windsor, a place by the Connecticut River recommended to us a few years ago by our late beloved chapter President, *Stephanie Lovell*, who used to live in the area and to head the Connecticut Chapter of the National Audubon Society. The pumpkin and leaf tobacco fields of South Windsor were teeming with birds, especially sparrows -- Song, Swamp, Savannah, White-throated, and, best of all, Vesper. One group of sparrows contained a delightful female Tennessee Warbler, whose yellow throat confounded us until we consulted *Sibley* for the identity!

So: Follow the rivers! The birds do. *Chris Wright*

TALBOT COUNTY

In Commemoration of Les Roslund

Members of the Talbot Chapter of MOS were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of beloved member Les Roslund (1937-2020) on 28 July 2020. Les came to our club 24 years earlier from Silver Spring, Montgomery County, where he resided during his working career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center before retiring to Tunis Mills. His affable demeanor expressed in a lyrical manner with a slow drawl instantly endeared him to everyone. He quickly became active in many aspects of the bird club being Treasurer, Membership Chairman, and a member of the Nominating Committee in 1998; posts he held almost continuously through 2018. In 2001 he became the Hotline Manager, created seasonal brochures publicizing club activities, served on the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan Revision Team, and took over the Bluebird Monitoring Project at Pickering Creek Audubon Center near his home. Les and his wife Carolyn frequently hosted bird club members for brunch at their home on Leed's Creek looking out at numerous types of bird feeder stations - a virtual theater that Les relished sharing in person with visitors and through written observations. He was a terrific ambas-

sador and recruiter for the bird club, quick to recognize visitors whom he greeted with a smile, conversation, copy of the club's seasonal schedule of activities and a membership application. Many of us met new colleagues through the welcoming words and handshake of Les Roslund. The club membership reached an all-time high during his tenure. Les was the bonding medium uniting all aspects of our bird club. He served on the MOS Conservation Committee for many years, plus being a "watchdog" for proposed Talbot County development projects possibly posing a threat to natural resources or preserved lands of MOS, The Nature Conservancy, Isaac Walton League, Audubon Society, and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy among others.

He always welcomed visitors to his estate where native habitats had been created and managed to benefit the 206 bird species identified on the property. He was gentle with neophyte birders, always willing to share his bird knowledge, books, or equipment while having time for anyone he met. He respected and complimented everyone, including bird club member's families or friends he had never met. In seeking permission to bird on private property, Les had the unique ability to acquire permission from even the most contentious land owners. He was a keen observer of bird identity and behavior, quick to share with others the location and details of unusual species he or others observed, and delighted to hear when others had found the target species via his alert. He shared his affection for birds by networking with MOS members throughout the state while authoring the "Birds of Note" column in The Maryland Yellowthroat during 2006-2017.

Les was proud of his abilities and many contributions, while we are likewise very proud and fortunate to have had him amongst us all those years. Many more credits and accolades could be expressed about the exemplary Les Roslund, who will be greatly missed. A published obituary may be found in the 30 July 2020 addition of The Star Democrat newspaper. Memorial donations may be made to Pickering Creek Audubon Center, 11450 Audubon Lane, Easton, Maryland 21601.

Members

Talbot Chapter

Maryland Ornithological Society

When Les Roslund passed away suddenly on July 28, Talbot Bird Club members were in shock. You can feel the love, respect, and admiration they had for this gentle man, as you read their memorial above. Many members of Talbot received frequent emails from Les describing bird activity on his property. Because we were in shut-down, I believe these were even more numerous this year. After he passed, they sent me copies of his emails. I thought I should share some of these with MOS members.

The first email was dated January 26 and was addressed to an individual who reported a "Boat-tailed Grackle" in Kensington. It is a lengthy note that is so gentle, polite, and self-effacing. Apparently Les, as a newer birder, reported Boat-tailed Grackles on an early list for the 1st Atlas in 1983. Someone gently explained "I think you mean to say you saw Common Grack-

les." He explains all of this in his email and then ends with:

Thanks much for reporting your Montgomery County sighting of the Boat-tailed Grackle, though your sighting, just like mine, did not get accepted into the official records for the County. Someday, one may actually be confirmed over there, and both of us can rejoice!

In these COVID Times, birders have discovered solace, consolation and joy in birding. We have taken to the out-of-doors in droves. Les Roslund was no different.

March 31

Big excitement here in Tunis Mills this morning!

Despite our Lock-down rules, the birds here have some really wild things going on. It is spring -almost. (March 31st). The day has started bright and clear, temperature is at 48 degrees.

The first big excitement comes from a pair of non-migrating Canada Geese! They have decided to nest on the dock today.

Next he describes a pair of Wood Ducks checking out a box. They ultimately did not nest there. Back to the geese over the next several hours he describes the laying of 2 eggs. Then signs off: *IN THE TRADITION OF YOUR LOCAL LAKE WOBEGON POET, THIS WAS JUST ANOTHER QUIET MORNING IN TUNIS MILLS.*

Over the next many days he describes birds he and his wife, Carolyn are observing in the yard, including nesting Bluebirds, more Wood Duck explorations and the continuing drama of "Mother Goose" on 5 eggs. Every email is signed happily with phrases like "Enjoy every bird", "Life is Good" and "These birds sure help to brighten the cloudy days of COVID-19 around here!"

On July 17 he described how he was only partly successful getting connected to the club's happy hour. He had really wanted to participate, but had technical issues. He wanted "to answer the questions about my claim of confirmation of a fledgling Glossy Ibis sighting at the Oxford Conservation Park recently." So he used email to describe his sightings.

July 22, Les' last email describing the bird life on his property included a "Cactus Wren". (A Carolina Wren nesting in a potted cactus). His humor and wit shines through his chatty letters. In that last email he was even happier because he sighted a Whooper Swan in the Miles River near St. Michaels. It was a "Life Bird" though he knew it was probably an escaped bird. "Lots of fun for me to find it anyhow!"

He signed off:

We are enjoying every bird and animal and plant and flower out here, and keeping away from the Covid 19 that seems to be raging wildly in so many places.

Hope you are also finding times of joy each day.

Les and Carolyn Roslund

Six days later on July 28 Les passed away unexpectedly. He was enjoying his life to the end. What a blessing!

Jean Wheeler

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MOS Convention to be virtual!

MOS is pleased to announce that the annual MOS convention will be held June 11 -- 13, 2021, and in keeping with these COVID times, it will be a virtual convention. This will be a convention unlike any MOS has held before, and we hope you will participate! The theme of this year's convention is the Breeding Birds of Maryland, and we will be celebrating the third Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and DC, now in its second year.

With a virtual convention and the pandemic, we can't have formal field trips with leaders, but in their place, we will encourage self-guided and safely socially-distanced trips in many different locations all across Maryland, with follow-up chat rooms to discuss who saw what. There will be speakers, both live and recorded as well as two keynote addresses. We are still going to have a pin contest and a photo contest, and are planning new contests around the self-guided field trips.

The convention website, <http://www.mosconvention.org/>, is being updated often, so check it out over the next few weeks for more information. We still need volunteers in the areas listed below; if you are interested in helping out, please email conference@mdbirds.org.

Area	Description
IT Platform	Help participate in practice sessions before the conventions and monitor the chat rooms during the convention.
Tally Rally	Work with CCC to create an all-MD species list on the MOS Convention website. Ensure list is appropriate for all of Maryland in June. Host the Tally Rally virtually.

MOS Calendar

Through 5/31/2021

Field Trips

Please wear masks, practice social distancing, and adhere to all restrictions requested by the host organization.

Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

2/6	8 AM – 4 PM	Ocean City Trip	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: All Day ocean/bay/national park birding. Ocean City Jetty, West Ocean City, Assateague Island. Rain date Feb. 20.
2/7	TBA	Trip to Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For meeting time and other information, contact Nathan Tea, snowmie700@gmail.com or Stella Tea, stazandgazer@gmail.com. Description: Winter marsh and woodland birding. Targets are sparrows, irruption finches, and possibly ducks. Dress for the weather, bring water and a snack. Reservations required. Limit: 6.
2/13	7 AM – 5 PM	Great Backyard Bird Count	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669. Description: waterfowl hunt, county bird search ending with search for Short-eared Owl. Choptank River, Blackwater, Hooper's Island, Shorter's Wharf.
2/13	8 AM – Noon	Trip to Piney Run	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Leaders Dave and Maureen Harvey, 410-795-3117. Description: Moderate walking around the lake. Meet at the parking lot outside the park gate on Martz Rd off of White Rock Rd.
2/13	3:45 - 6:15 PM	Birding at Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations and more information, contact leader Mark England, 240-308-4114 or englandmark@comcast.net. Description: Search for wintering sparrows and raptors, including possible Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. Reservations required. Limit: 6.
2/16	3:45 - 6:15 PM	Birding at Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations and more information, contact leader Mark England, 240-308-4114 or englandmark@comcast.net. Description: Search for wintering sparrows and raptors, including possible Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. Reservations required. Limit: 6.
2/20	8 AM – Noon	Waterfowl at Swan Harbor Farm Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net). Description: Three impoundments as well as wooded trails, open fields, and Bay views. This is a fine location for waterfowl, marsh specialties, raptors and sparrows. Meet at the parking lot at the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway.
2/20	8 AM – 5 PM	Field Trip to Blackwater NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Prime waterfowl and eagle country; pelicans and other surprises? Full day. Dress warmly, bring lunch. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
2/25	TBA	Birding at Blue Mash	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Woody and Rae Dubois at dengue1@verizon.net. Description: Search for winter birds in the fields and wood edges and possible waterfowl on the ponds. Postponed if the conditions are icy. Reservations required.
3/3	8 AM – Noon	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of surveys at the fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather. Please park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. RSVP to leader required. Limit: 10.
3/6	6:15 AM – Noon	The River and Field Campus (Chino Farms)	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Dan Small. Contact Nancy O'Hara, noh529@gmail.com, 443-286-0922 for reservations and directions to meeting spot. Description: The focus is on birds, particularly sparrows, that winter in this 230-acre grassland. Ducks and geese may still be on the adjacent Chester River. Limit: 10.
3/6	7:30 AM - Noon	Birding North Branch Stream Valley	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Josephine Cox, jobirder11@gmail.com 240 506 1723 or Anne Mytych, amtych@yahoo.com 240-506-0236. Description: Expect to see sparrows, hawks and early migrants. Meet at Bowie Mill Park. Reservations required. Limit 12.
3/6	6 – 8:30 PM	Woodcock Walk at Morgan Run	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. RSVP to Allan McQuarrie at 410-552-1278. Description: Come strain your eyes and ears to appreciate these curious birds as they perform their annual courting ritual. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane.
3/7	8 AM – Noon	Trip to Chesapeake Farms	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Wintering waterfowl, raptors (notably eagles), White-crowned and other sparrows. Half day, bring snacks. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
3/10	8 AM – Noon	Birding at Gunners Lake	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Mike Bowen, 202-236-0510 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com. Description: Close views of wintering waterfowl. Bring telescopes. Meet along the N side of Wisteria Drive. Reservations required. Limit: 6.

3/10	6 – 8 PM	Timberdoodle Hunt	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Tom Gibson (410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870 or jane@scocca.org). Description: Meet at the I-95/155 Park and Ride near Havre de Grace at 6 PM for this evening trip to a well-known site for Woodcocks. Hopefully you will see their fascinating mating display as well as hear their distinctive call notes.
3/12	TBA	Wheaton Regional Park for Beginners	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Evelyn Ralston (evelynralston@icloud.com, 240-505-0699) or Susan Hunt (shunt820@yahoo.com; 240-426-4407). Description: Ducks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, raptors, bluebirds, towhees are all possible. Reservations required. Limit 12.
3/14	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
3/17	7 – 9 PM	Timberdoodle Hunt	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504). Description: Meet at Nottingham Drive (Baltimore County) at 7 PM for a second try at one of our most interesting and elusive birds. Hopefully, you will see the fascinating Woodcock sky-dance mating display as well as hear their distinctive call notes. Note: The location and date subject to last-minute change.
3/20-21	All Day	YMOS Birdathon	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: YMOS fund-raiser as MOS members pledge per species found. Sat: Ocean City to Cambridge. Sun: Cambridge to Bay Bridge.
3/20	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center-patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. For information, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website.
3/20	8 AM – Noon	Saturday Morning Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: David Sandler, 410-370-0747 (alternate Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
3/20	8 AM – Noon	Lapidum Gull Watch	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). Description: Meet at the Lapidum boat launch at the southern end of Susquehanna SP for a morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species. Little Gull and Black-headed Gull are possible.
3/21	8 – 11 AM	Loch Raven-Paper Mill Flats	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com, 443-844-5917. Description: We'll explore two locations for winter waterfowl, early shorebirds, and spring songbirds: the first 1/2 mile of the NCR and the Paper Mill Flats trail. The latter can be wet and uneven, so consider your footwear. A spotting scope is helpful. Beginners birders welcome! RSVP required. Limit: 10.
3/27	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center-patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. With more than 200 species on record, the park is full of surprises. For directions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website.
3/27	TBA	Cabin John Regional Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Max Wilson, mercretas@hotmail.com. Description: Explore the scrub habitat below the power lines to study multiple sparrow species. Reservations required. Limit 6.
3/28	8 – 11 AM	Southwest Area Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Alina Martin, alinacmartin@gmail.com. Description: Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots, and other water birds. We'll also look for winter residents such as sparrows, and raptors. Trip canceled in snow, rain, or slippery conditions. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
3/31	7 AM - Noon	Pennyfield Lock	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Dave Powell, seneca.ranger@gmail.com. Description: Looking for early warblers and lingering waterfowl. Reservations required. Limit 6.
4/6	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com, 410-292-9549. Description: First in a series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/7	8 AM – Noon	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of surveys at the fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather. Please park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/10	7 AM – 5 PM	Eastern Shore Migrants	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669. Description: Search for early migrants on the Eastern Shore. Nassawango Creek, Elliot Island Rd, Blackwater Refuge.
4/10	7:30 AM – Noon	Birding at Emily Bayless Graham Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). Description: Meet at the park located at 15 E. Wheel Road. This new park features a gravel loop trail with several side trails, a paved parking lot and portable toilets. In addition to the usual woodland residents, some early migrants could be passing through.

4/10	8 AM – Noon	Birding at Wakefield Valley	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Leader Crystal Kunst, birdsonghiker@gmail.com. Description: We will be birding at the former Wakefield Valley Golf Course on Fenby Farm Rd in Westminster. This is a great place to bird most of the year; you can walk, bike ride, and fish in their five ponds. We will see a variety of year-round resident birds as well as some early migrants. Meeting place to be determined.
4/11	8 – 10 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/11	8 – 11 AM	Irvine Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Libby Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com. Description: This property features a variety of habitats, including woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. Participants will have a chance to see several different sparrow species, raptors, perhaps some Wood Ducks, early spring migrants and Red-headed Woodpeckers. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/11	TBA	Birding Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517. Description: Explore the wetlands and fields looking for Red-headed Woodpeckers, Blue-winged Teal, warblers including Prothonotary. Reservations required. Limit 6.
4/13	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com, 667-231-6453. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/17	7:30 AM – Noon	Warblers and Wildflowers	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919). Description: Enjoy discovering the beauty of colorful spring wildflowers and the gorgeous spring plumage of migrant and resident bird species. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.
4/17	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center-patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. For information, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website.
4/17	8 AM – Noon	Saturday Morning Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing a series of surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/17	8 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Prime Hook NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Spring birding for late waterfowl, raptors, sparrows and the occasional surprise. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
4/17	8:15 AM – Noon	North Point State Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Waterfowl, herons, raptors, songbirds—anything could turn up in North Point's varied habitats. Wear boots, trails may be muddy. RSVP required. Limit: 8.
4/20	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410- 665-0769. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. Pre-registration required. RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.
4/24	7 AM – 5 PM	Trip to C&O Canal and Antietam Battlefield	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. For more details or to RSVP, contact Scott Hodgdon, 443-280-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com. Description: Scott and Matthew Hodgdon will lead a modest walk in the morning at Snyder's Landing for early warblers, woodland birds and maybe some waterfowl on the river. Bring a lunch if planning to do all day and we will go to Antietam Battlefield for field birds: Eastern Meadowlark, Orioles and Eastern Kingbird. Meet at the P&R on Rt. 27 just N of I-70 in Mt. Airy. We will caravan from there. Note that parking at the birding sites may be limited
4/24	7:30 AM – Noon	Birding at Jerusalem Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dr. Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com; 410-692-5978). Description: Explore this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River. Meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Rd. at 7:30 AM.
4/24	7:30 AM - Noon	Croydon Creek Nature Center	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Anne Mytych, amytych@yahoo.com or 240 506-0236 or Emily Huang, EPHuang@verizon.net. Description: Spring migration including warblers. Reservations required. Limit 6.

4/24	8 – 11 AM	Habitat Walk: Lower Stony Run Stream Restoration.	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: James Wolf, Friends of Stony Run representative and Lynne Parks v.lynneparks@gmail.com or 443-416-6180. Description: Expect to see a variety of songbirds including warblers, flycatchers, vireos, and more. Meet at the Remington Ave. bridge above Wyman Park Dr. The one-mile dirt path can be muddy. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/24	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center-patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. With more than 200 species on record, the park is full of surprises. For directions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website.
4/25	7:30 – 11 AM	Lake Roland's Old Rugby Field and Blue Trails	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com, 443-844-5917. Description: Expect to see a variety of birds including migrating warblers and flycatchers, raptors, and potentially waterbirds along the upper Jones Falls. We'll walk a loop trail of approximately .7 miles on even, but occasionally muddy terrain. We'll return to the parking area, at which point participants can leave, or continue onto the Blue Trail to Lake Roland. Meet at the trailhead of the Old Rugby Field. Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/25	7:30 AM - Noon	Trip to Occoquan Bay NWR	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Mike Bowen, 202-236-0510 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net. Description: A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Reservations required. Limit 12.
4/25	8 AM – Noon	Turner's Creek & Sassafras NRMA	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Explore a diversity of habitats from wood margins and small ponds to open fields, looking for spring migrants. Half day, bring snacks. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
4/25	8 AM – 4 PM	Western Shore Migrants	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radcliff@gmail.com, 410-463-1669. Description: Refuge Exploration - Migrant search of Western Shore areas: Susquehanna State Park, Swan Harbor, etc.
4/27	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. Pre-registration required - RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.
4/29	8 – 11 AM	Milford Mill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Leslie Starr, turnstar@aol.com. Description: The park features a level one-mile loop trail through the woods, half of it alongside the Gwynns Falls stream. Milford Mill is one of the best passerine migrant traps in the Baltimore metropolitan area. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
4/30 – 5/2	All Day	Deep Creek Lake BirdFest	If the pandemic restrictions have been lifted, the annual BirdFest will take place in Garrett County. Information on the BirdFest will be announced later this spring.
5/1	7:30 AM – Noon	Susquehanna State Park, Rock Run Gristmill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com. Description: Trip to the river for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. Paths are uneven, unpaved and some are hilly. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd., next to the old mill building. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/1	7:30 AM – Noon	Warbler Walk at Susquehanna State Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504). Description: Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants. While warblers will be the focus of the trip, there should be plenty of other songbirds as well as waterfowl and waders out on the river. Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill at 7:30 AM.
5/2	7 AM - Noon	Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517. Description: wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. Reservations required. Limit 6.
5/2	7:45 – 8:30 PM	Chimney Swifts at Dusk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Joan Cwi, 410- 467-5352or jafjsc@verizon.net and Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net. The swifts have returned again to the Bookbindery Chimney in Hampden, so that is where we will hold the watch! Check the BBC website for last minute location changes. If cloudy or a drizzle, come a half hour early. Canceled if raining. Binoculars useful but not necessary.
5/2	8 AM – Noon	Oregon Ridge and Agricultural Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com. Description: Oregon Ridge is a good spot for warblers, thrushes, and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across Shawan Road, has a variety of open habitats and fields; we'll look here for a few grassland specialists - Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center. RSVP required. Limit: 10.

5/2	8 AM – Noon	Field Trip: Millington NRMA	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Migrating warblers should still be on the move while many breeding specialties are establishing territories in Kent County's most extensive forest. Half day. Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown.
5/2	8:15 AM – Noon	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Some paths are not paved and can be hilly. Beginning birders welcome. Pre-registration required - RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.
5/4	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Debbie & Lou Taylor, 410-852-9807, debrataylor11@gmail.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. Pre-registration required - RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.
5/5	8 AM – Noon	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of surveys at the fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather. Please park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/7	7 AM - Noon	Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Paul Woodward at grackling@ATT.NET. Description: Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. Geared to beginners. Reservations required. Limit 6.
5/8	8 AM – Noon	**Youth Birding**	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: These walks are designed to encourage the appreciation of birds and bird habitat conservation to minors through mentorship and education. They will change monthly and may include youth-oriented education programs, youth birding trips, and competitions. Limit: 10.
5/8	8 AM – Noon	Birding by Ear	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Kim Tomko, Lynne Parks v.lynneparks@gmail.com or 443-416-6180. Description: Learn to identify birds by songs and calls. Warblers, orioles, vireos, and more. Walk along a 2-mile flat paved path. Park and meet along the south lanes of Belair Rd. where it crosses Herring Run below Parkside Dr. Birders with disabilities will be registered first. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/8	8 AM – Noon	Patuxent Research Refuge- South Tract	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Debbie & Lou Taylor, 410-852-9807, debrataylor11@gmail.com. Description: Early May at Patuxent South brings Warblers, Orioles and Flycatchers. May find Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting and Grosbeak in a habitat mix including lakes, meadows, and forest wetlands. Walking 2-3 miles of boardwalks, floating walkways, forest floor and paved trails around lakes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Port-a-pot in parking lot. Meet in far-left hand corner of parking lot. RSVP required. Limit: 8.
5/8	TBA	Little Bennett RP	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leaders Woody and Rae Dubois dengue1@verizon.net. Looking for warblers and other migrants. Reservations required. Limit 6.
5/8	All Day	YMOS Big Day	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Student Competition with details to be determined at a later date.
5/8	All Day	May Count	See separate May Count chart.
5/9	7 AM – Noon	Birding at Sweet Air	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dr. Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com; 410-692-5978). Description: Stroll through the Sweet Air area of Gunpowder SP in a search for migrants and breeding birds. Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and various Warbler species are the targets. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Dalton-Bevard Road at 7 AM.
5/9	7 AM - Noon	Rock Creek Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Leader Gerry Hawkins, maineusa@comcast.net or 571 277-8406. Description: Near peak time for migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet at the Nature Center. Reservations required. Limit 6.
5/9	8 – 10 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/9	8 – 11 AM	Soldiers Delight	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Meet at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd. We will cover 1.5-2 miles of level but sometimes rocky terrain. Trails can be muddy if the weather has been wet. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/11	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. Pre-registration required - RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.

5/15	8 AM – Noon	Saturday Morning Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing a series of surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/15	8 AM – Noon	Birding at Emory Knoll Farm	Host: Harford Bird Club. Contact Carey Rowsom (carey@greenroofplants.com or 410-452-5880). Description: The open fields and woods of this lovely property are excellent habitat for songbirds, woodpeckers, and both resident and migratory warblers. Meet at the farm at 8 AM. Parking is limited.
5/15	8 AM – Noon	Birding at Hashawa Environmental Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. RSVP to Scott Hodgdon at 443-280-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com. Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk in the woods and along the stream. We will be looking for vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and flycatchers. Meet at the parking lot at the Bear Branch Nature Center.
5/15	8 AM – 5 PM	Slaughter Beach	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 443-416-9867. Description: We will make some stops along the shoreline on our drive along Bay Avenue and Slaughter Beach. More than 130 species of birds, fish, shellfish, and other animals can be found in the surrounding estuary habitat. Meet at Coppermine Fieldhouse parking lot. Minimal walking. Please bring a bag lunch. Limit: 10.
5/16	7 – 11 AM	Herring Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Kim Tomko and Matt Lince, 443-324-0907 or mdlince@comcast.net. Description: This urban park in NE Baltimore is an oasis for many species of migrating and resident birds. Easy walking, on mostly flat, paved paths. Habitats include open fields, edge habitat, wooded areas, and Herring Run itself. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/16	8 AM – 5 PM	Field Trip: Delaware Bay Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: The annual May gathering of northbound shorebirds including Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones, feeding on horseshoe crab eggs along the shores of Delaware Bay is a migration spectacle. The area is also good for coastal marsh birds, gulls and terns. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at the “Dollar General” parking lot (off Philosopher’s Terrace) in Chestertown.
5/18	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com, 410-821-1297. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland’s varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. Pre-registration required - RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.
5/22	6:45 AM – 5 PM	Bombay Hook & Dupont Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com, 667-231-6453. Description: Expect a wide variety of migrating shorebirds. Possible Turnstones, Sanderlings, breeding plumage Red Knots. Marsh Wrens, Seaside Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks. Purple Martins and Tree Swallows at their colonies, and Night-herons likely. Be prepared for heat and biting insects. Minimal walking. Bring lunch. Telescopes very useful. Meet at Nursery Road P&R at 6:45 am. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/22	7:30 AM – Noon	Warbler Walk Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader is Gabby Ross (gabbycammarata@gmail.com; 410-688-1578). Description: Between the presence of numerous migrant visitors as well as resident species, birding is always good at Susquehanna SP. The focus of this trip will be on late migrants. Meet at the Mill parking lot at 7:30 AM.
5/22	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center-patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. For information, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website.
5/22	8 AM – Noon	Beginners’ Bird Walk, Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Kent County Bird Club. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com or borealdee@gmail.com. Description: Meet at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk, Eastern Neck NWR. Spend the morning exploring several of the Refuge’s trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of breeding species and late migrants, from raptors to warblers. Half day, bring snacks.
5/23	7:30 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com, 443-844-5917. Description: We’ll walk a portion of the Minebank Trail looking for warblers and other migrants, and continue to the open meadows for swallows, flycatchers, raptors, and more. All trails we’ll walk are mowed grass, packed gravel, or paved, and generally flat so this walk is accessible to most participants. Beginners birders welcome!
5/25	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland’s varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). Participants must sign a Covid-19 waiver. Pre-registration required - RSVP to leader. Limit: 10.

5/27	7:30 – 11:30 AM	Gunpowder Falls SP- Masemore Water Trail	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com, 667-231-6453. Description: We'll look for breeding warblers, vireos and flycatchers on territory. We will be walking the portion that runs adjacent to the river, about 1 mile each way. Trail is unpaved, and can be narrow and uneven in places. Canceled if raining. RSVP required. Limit: 10.
5/29	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center-patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. With more than 200 species on record, the park is full of surprises. For directions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website.
5/29	8 AM – Noon	Birding at Krimgold Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. RSVP to Matthew Hodgdon, 301-703-0657 or mhodgdon@msn.com. Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk while bird watching in the park. The park has a lot of open fields, four ponds and tree lines. We hope to see sparrows, swallows and Horned Larks. Please meet at the last parking lot by the pavilion.
5/29	8:30 AM – Noon	Paddle at Perryville Community Park	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919). Description: The peninsula is surrounded by Mill Creek, Furnace Bay and the Susquehanna Flats. Eagles and Osprey are almost always seen; passerines are common in the surrounding trees; waders and waterfowl are common throughout. Meet at Stump's Point at the far end of Perryville Community Park.
5/31	7 AM – Noon	Hidden Valley and Bradenbaugh Flats	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). Description: The trip will include the Hidden Valley area, with its stream which runs through a stand of mature hemlocks, and Bradenbaugh Flats, with stops along the way at any other sites with potential. Meet in the parking lot at the N end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited.

Meetings

All meetings are virtual. Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

2/3	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Leighann Cline, animal keeper at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, will discuss her work.
2/4	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Jay Sheppard will speak on "Life History/Behavior of LeConte's Thrasher"
2/9	7 – 8 PM	Allegany/Garrett Bird Club	Luke DeGroote will present "Allegany Bird Conservation Alliance: Making Pittsburg a more livable city for birds".
2/9	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Steve Dryden will speak on Habitat Restoration and Song Birds at Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park.
2/11	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Fred Tutman will speak on his work as Patuxent Riverkeeper
2/16	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Jonathan Irons will present "Prime Time Birding in Maryland".
2/17	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Montgomery County Birders, Birds, and Birding Over the Years. Michael Bowen will host a panel discussion on Montgomery County birders, birds, and birding over the years.
2/18	6:30 – 9 PM	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Sonja Kolstoe will speak on "How and Why Economists Value Bird Diversity.
2/23	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Speaker TBA
3/2	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	"The River and Field Campus" by Dan Small
3/3	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Kathy Woods, Executive Director of the Phoenix Wildlife Center, will talk about "Bird Emergencies—What Do I Do Now?"
3/4	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Anna Mudd will speak on the work of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
3/6	10 AM – Noon	MOS	MOS Board Meeting
3/9	7 – 8 PM	Allegany/Garrett Bird Club	Aaron Graham will speak on using eBird Birdcast and other topics.
3/9	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	BBC Board Meeting
3/9	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Dave Mozurkewich, Ross Geredien, & Gabriel Foley will provide an Update on the Third Breeding Bird Atlas of MD & DC
3/9	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Ken W. Staves will tell us about the "Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program".
3/11	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	"Creek Ecosystem Importance for Breeding Birds and Aquatic Life" by Emilio Concar.
3/17	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Topic TBA
3/22	6:30 – 9 PM	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Andy Brown will speak on "The Natural History of Barn Owls".
3/23	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Speaker TBA
4/1	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Kim Derrickson will speak on Playing Dr. Doolittle: Understanding Bird Song and Social Behavior

4/6	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	"Night Heron Nesting Colonies in Baltimore City" by George Williams.
4/7	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Karen Lippy will share her stories of "The Eagles of Codorus State Park," whose comings and goings she has watched for nearly 15 years.
4/8	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	"Ghana: Birds, Butterflies, and Mammals" by Gwen Brewer and George Jett
4/13	7 – 8 PM	Allegheny/Garrett Bird Club	Gabe Foley will give a refresher presentation on the BBA3 and ways club members can participate and support the effort as well as answer any questions.
4/13	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	BBC Board Meeting
4/13	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Kathy Shollenberger, Barry Stahl and Erin Miller will speak on Audubon at Home, a new gardening consulting service sponsored by National Audubon,
4/13	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Environmental Education and Pickering Creek in the time of COVID.
4/21	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Songs of Female Birds by Karan Odom
4/27	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Speaker TBA
5/4	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	"The Cohabitation of Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs" by Daisy Sudano.
5/5	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Topic TBA
5/6	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Andy Wilson will speak on How Drones Provide a New Way to Monitor Bird Populations
5/11	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	BBC Board Meeting
5/13	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	"Birding and Beyond in Cuba" by Paul Baicich
5/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	South African Birds by Josh Engel
5/25	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Speaker TBA

May Count

Information is current as of publication date, but subject to change if state pandemic guidance/restrictions change.

5/1	Dorchester 107th May Count	Compiler Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com or 215-248-4120
5/1	Fred Archibald May Count	Meet at Sanctuary at 6 AM. Contact David Smith, 410-549-7082
5/8	Allegheny May Count	Compiler is Mark Eanes, mdeanes@atlanticbb.net
5/8	Anne Arundel May Count	Compiler TBD
5/8	Baltimore May Count	Coordinator: Libby Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com
5/8	Calvert May Count	Compiler is Sherman Suter, sjsuter29@verizon.net, 410-586-1073 or 703-768-5922
5/8	Caroline May Count	Compiler is Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com
5/8	Carroll May Count	Contact Scott Hodgdon, scotthodgohn@msn.com
5/8	Charles May Count	Compiler is Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097
5/8	Dorchester 108th May Count	Compiler Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com or 215-248-4120
5/8	Frederick May Count	Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082
5/8	Garrett May Count	Compiler Karl Schwalm, Karlandsharon@hotmail.com
5/8	Harford May Count	Compiler TBD
5/8	Howard May Count	Compilers are Amy Anderson, amyanderson72@gmail.com and Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com
5/8	Kent May Count	Contact Walter Ellison, 410-778-9568 or rossgull61@gmail.com
5/8	Montgomery May Count	Compiler Diane Ford, dmford455@yahoo.com.
5/8	Prince George's May Count	Compiler TBD
5/8	Somerset May Count	Compiler Pat Valdata, 302-563-7180 or pvaldata@charter.net
5/8	St. Mary's May Count	Compiler J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.com
5/8	Talbot May Count	Contact Ron Ketter, 410-820-6165 or rgketter@gmail.com
5/8	Washington May Count	Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696
5/8	Wicomico May Count	Compiler Ellen Lawler, 410-546-9056 or emlawler534@comcast.net
5/8	Worcester May Count	Compiler Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com
5/9	Audrey Carroll May Count	Meet at Sanctuary at 6 AM. Coordinator David Smith, 410-549-7082